

PATIENT CLASSIFICATION

Risk level for developing severe C-diff infection

A patient's risk level for developing severe C-diff infection depends on their risk factors and the symptoms exhibited. Use this reference sheet as a guide for assessing a patient's risk level.

High Risk

- 3+ high-risk factors
- Severe symptoms

Moderate Risk

- 3+ moderate-risk factors
- Symptoms: mostly mild, may have 1 severe symptom
- Lab data: normal or slightly elevated

Low Risk

- 1+ low-risk factors
- May exhibit 1 or 2 moderate risk factors; may have conditions unrelated to risk of severe C-diff infection
- Symptoms: mostly mild or no symptoms at all
- Lab data: normal or slightly elevated

RISK FACTORS

High

- > 65 years of age
- Chronic use of PPI's
- Chronic use of steroids
- Recent history of broad spectrum antibiotic use (within 30 days)
- Recent history of multiple courses of antibiotics; diarrhea within two months of antibiotic
- Pediatric patient with current history of malignancy and treatment
- Pediatric patient on long term prophylactic antibiotic treatment
- Abnormal abdominal CT image
- Experiencing organ failure
- Small bowel obstruction
- Previous history of C-diff (90 days after resolution of symptoms)

Moderate

- > 65 years of age
- Just started antibiotic and onset of diarrhea from day 5-10
- Recent use of antibiotic (within last 30 days)
- Chronic use of PPI's and < 65 years old
- Recent history of hospital admission (within last 30 days)
- Pregnant (in the presence of mild to severe symptoms)

Low

- < 65 years of age
- Newly admitted to hospital who has sick contacts (e.g. from a nursing home with multiple patients with active diarrhea and abdominal pain)
- New onset of diarrhea in absence of other risk factors
- Young adult with recent history of swimming in lakes (recreational water use)
- Admitted to hospital room where prior patient had CDI

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Severe

- Watery diarrhea up to 10-15 times a day
- Severe abdominal cramping/pain
- White blood cell count greater than 15,000 cells/mL
- Minimum albumin less than 2.5 g/dL
- Maximum creatine level greater than 2 mg/dL

Mild

- Watery diarrhea 3 times a day and lasting for more than 2 days
- Mild abdominal cramping and tenderness associated with loose stools