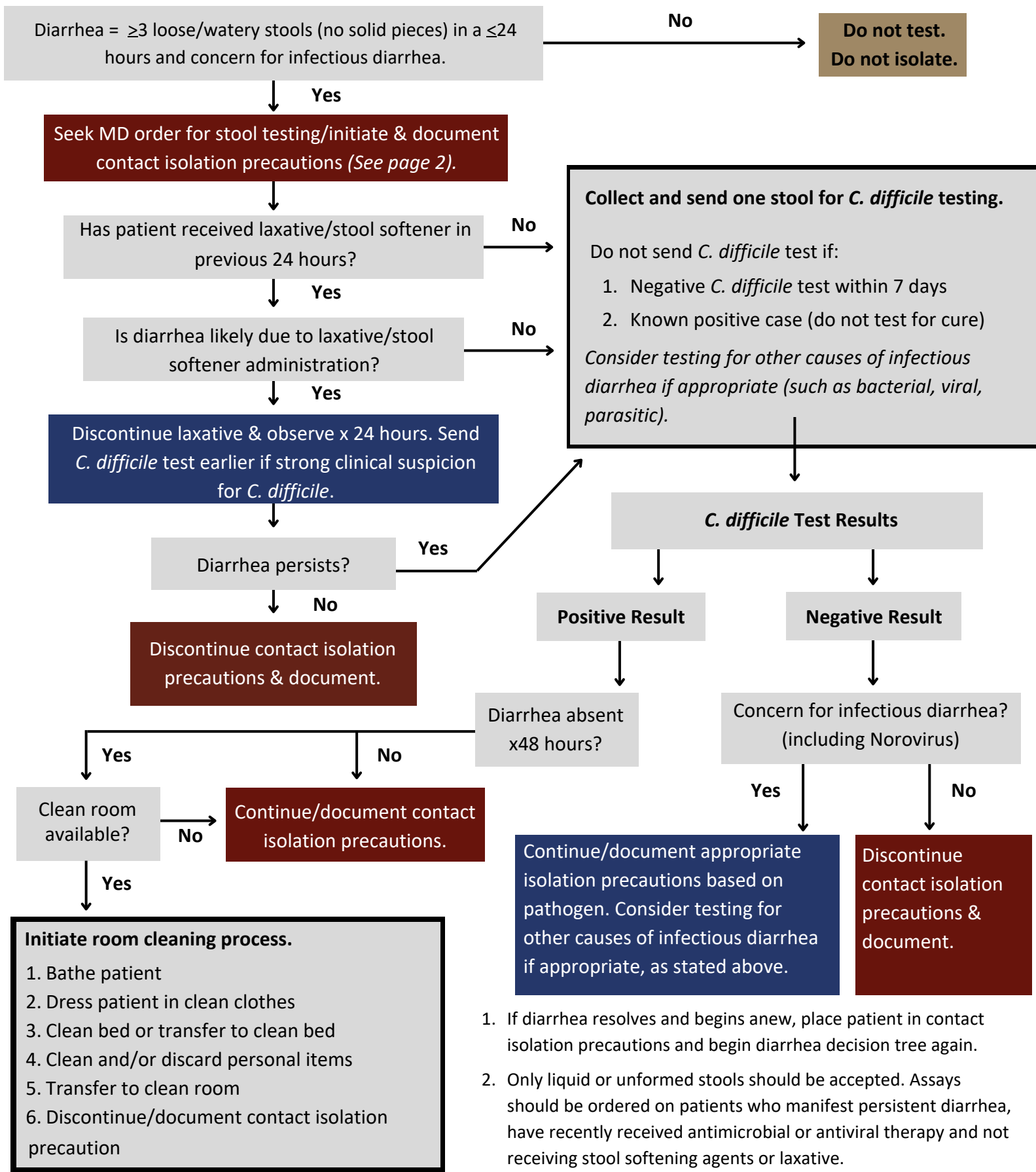


Decision Tree for Diarrhea Management

This document does not substitute for clinical assessment and judgment.



C. difficile Tips

- Use antibiotics appropriately.
- Use contact precautions for patients with a known or suspected *C. difficile* Infection (CDI): www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/basics/transmission-based-precautions.html
 - Place these patients in private rooms. If private rooms are not available, they can be placed in rooms (cohort-ed) with other CDI patients.
 - Wear gloves and a gown when entering CDI patient rooms and during their care.
 - As no single method of hand hygiene will eliminate all *C. difficile* spores, using gloves to prevent hand contamination remains the cornerstone for preventing *C. difficile* transmission via the hands of healthcare personnel.
 - Always perform hand hygiene after removing gloves.
- If your institution experiences an outbreak, use soap and water instead of alcohol-based hand sanitizers for hand hygiene after removing gloves while caring for patients with CDI.
- Dedicate or perform cleaning and disinfection of any shared medical equipment between patients.
- Continue CDI precautions at least until diarrhea ceases.
 - Because CDI patients continue to shed the organism for a number of days following cessation of diarrhea, some institutions routinely continue isolation and contact precautions for either several days beyond symptom resolution or until discharge, depending upon the type of setting and average length of stay.
- Implement an environmental cleaning and disinfection strategy.
 - Ensure adequate cleaning and disinfection of environmental surfaces and reusable devices, especially items likely to be contaminated with feces and surfaces that are touched frequently.
 - Ensure daily and terminal cleaning of patient rooms.
 - Use an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered disinfectant with a sporicidal claim for environmental surface disinfection after cleaning in accordance with label instructions. (Note: Only surface disinfectants listed on [EPA's List K](#) are registered as effective against *C. difficile* spores)

Visit CDC's *C. diff* website to learn more:
www.cdc.gov/cdiff/clinicians/resources.html