

Is it all right for my family and friends to visit?

There is no reason to restrict your visitors. It is always a good idea for family and friends to wash their hands and wear a gown & gloves before their visit with you. When they are ready to leave the room be sure to remove the gown & gloves before washing their hands.

Can my family catch this germ?

It is unlikely that your family will catch this germ if they wash their hands well.

What will happen when I go home?

Wash your hands well after using the bathroom and before eating. Keep the bathroom clean.

Do my personal items like pictures, books, or clothing need to be specially cleaned before going home?

Special cleaning is not necessary. If these items become soiled with your feces, wiping or cleaning with soap and water is all that is

needed. Clothing may be laundered in the same manner as the rest of the household laundry.

If you have any other questions speak with your doctor, nurse or Infection Control Professional



**Infection Control
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SBGHC - Chesley, Durham, Kincardine and Walkerton

**Information
For Patients
And Their Families**

***Clostridium
difficile***

CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE

This information brochure has been written to help you and your family learn about *Clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*)

What is *Clostridium difficile*?

C. difficile is a type of bacteria normally found in soil and other natural environments. It can also live in our own gut or bowel with many other kinds of bacteria. Antibiotics (medicines) used to treat infections will kill many of these germs but may allow *C. difficile* to grow causing irritation of the bowel and diarrhea. Other types of medications may also cause your bowel to be susceptible to this infection. This can happen with medications you have taken at home or while you were in the hospital.

What happens if I get *C. difficile*?

You will be placed in isolation if one of your tests (culture reports) shows that you have a *C. difficile* infection.

Why is isolation necessary?

We must isolate you as a safety measure to prevent the spread of *C. difficile* to other patients. These patients may also be receiving certain medications and be more susceptible to this disease.

What does isolation involve?

- You will be placed in a private room or physically separated from other patients.
- A sign will be placed on your door and chart to alert hospital staff caring for you that you require this isolation.
- Staff caring for you will wear gloves and gowns to prevent them from carrying the germ to other patients.

It is very important that:

- Staff, doctors, family and friends wash their hands before and after contact with you.
- You wash your hands after using the bathroom and before leaving your room. You can walk in the hallways but avoid areas used by patients, staff and visitors.
- If you have uncontrolled diarrhea, you will be asked to remain in your room.

How do you treat *C. difficile*?

The diarrhea is treated by taking special antibiotics that kill the *C. difficile* bacteria.

How long will I be isolated?

You will be isolated until the diarrhea stops (and you have finished your antibiotics to treat *C. difficile*.)