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C. diff is a spore-forming, Gram-positive anaerobic bacillus that produces two exotoxins: toxin A and toxin B. C. diff sheds in feces. Any surface, device or material that becomes contaminated with feces could serve as a reservoir for the C. diff spores. Examples include: C. diff spores can transfer to patients by the hands of healthcare personnel who have touched a contaminated surface or item. Patients with CDI exhibit clinical symptoms and test positive for the C. diff organism or its toxin. Colonization with C. diff is more common than infection. Colonized patients do not have disease caused by C. diff and often exhibit NO clinical symptoms (asymptomatic) like diarrhea. Colonized patients do test positive for the C. diff organism or its toxin. If a patient has had three or more stools in 24 hours: If CDI is confirmed: In about 20% of patients, CDI will resolve within two to three days of discontinuing the antibiotic to which the patient was previously exposed. However, CDI should usually be treated with an appropriate course (about 10 days) of treatment, including oral vancomycin or fidaxomicin. After treatment, repeat C. diff testing is not recommended if the patient's symptoms have resolved, as patients often remain colonized. Surfaces should be clean and body substance spills should be managed promptly, per CDC's Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities. Routine cleaning should be performed before disinfection. EPA-registered disinfectants with a sporicidal claim have been successful in environmental surface disinfection of patient-care areas where surveillance and epidemiology indicate ongoing transmission of C. diff. Note: EPA-registered disinfectants (List K) are recommended for patient-care areas. When choosing a

disinfectant, check product labels for inactivation claims, indications for use and instructions. CDC works with federal and public health partners to reduce C. diff infections. CDC also discovers, implements and evaluates innovative ways to improve healthcare quality and patient safety. Improving Diagnosis and Management: Clinical Practice Guidelines for Clostridium difficile Infection in Adults and Children: 2017 Federal Initiatives to Reduce C. diff: C. diff is a germ that causes diarrhea and colitis (inflammation of the colon). It can be life-threatening. Languages Language Assistance Languages Language Assistance

