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Type 7

Trigger: A decrease in consistency (soft or liquid) and an increase in frequency of bowel movements to ≥ 3 stools per day should trigger concern for infectious diarrhea.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

Diarrhea – an alteration in normal bowel movement characterized by an increase in the water content, volume, and frequency of stools.

**Infectious Diarrhea** – diarrhea due to an infectious etiology, often accompanied by symptoms of nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain.

**Acute Diarrhea** – an episode of diarrhea of ≤ 14 days. Persistent Diarrhea – diarrhea of ≥ 14 days.

Chronic Diarrhea – diarrhea of > 30 days.

#### THE BRISTOL STOOL SCALE

Separate hard lumps, like nuts Type 1 (hard to pass)

Type 2 Sausage-shaped but lumpy

Like a sausage, but with cracks on Type 3

Like a sausage or snake, smooth Type 4 and soft

Soft blobs with clear-cut edges Type 5 (passed easily)

Fluffy pieces with ragged edges, a Type 6 mushy stool

> Watery, no solid pieces (entirely liquid)

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#### INFECTIOUS DIARRHEA: SCREENING

#### volume, etiology, Diarrhea vomiting, Intectious

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Soft blobs with

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Like a sausage, but with cracks on the surface

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THE BRISTOL STOOL

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## DEFINITIONS

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# CREENING ΕA DIARRH **FECTIOUS**

CLINICAL FEATURES

#### **CLINICAL FEATURES**

- Fever
- Abdominal pain
- Vomiting and/or nausea
- Bloody stool
- Involuntary spasm or straining

#### **RISK FACTORS**

- Travel to a developing area
- Day-care center attendance or employment
- Resident of long-term care facility
- Consumption of unsafe foods (raw meats, eggs, or shellfish; unpasteurized milk) or swimming in/drinking untreated fresh surface water
- Recent visit to a farm or petting zoo or having contact with reptiles
- Exposure to other persons with diarrhea
- Medications (antibiotics, antacids, or antimotility agents)
- Medical conditions that predispose to infectious diarrhea (AIDS, prior gastrectomy, extremes of age)
- Occupation as a food-handler or caregiver

#### **DOCUMENTATION**

- When and how the illness began (abrupt or gradual onset and duration of symptoms)
- Use the Bristol Stool Scale to describe stool characteristics (include bloody, mucous, purulent, or greasy appearance)
- Frequency of bowel movements and quality of stool
- Symptoms of dehydration (thirst, fast heart rate, dizziness, decreased urination, lethargy, decreased skin turgor)
- Other symptoms (fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, cramps, headache, myalgias, altered sensorium)



#### **CLINICAL FEATURES**

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Quality Improvement Organizations



### INFECTIOUS DIARRHEA: SCREENING TOOL

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