**CLOSTRIDIODES DIFFICILE**  
(formerly known as Clostridium difficile)

**IMPACT**

- *C. diff* causes close to half a million illnesses each year and can affect people of all ages.\(^1\)
- About **1 in 6 patients** who get *C. diff* will get it again in the subsequent 2–8 weeks.\(^1\)
- One in 11 people over 65 diagnosed with a healthcare-associated *C. diff* infection die within a month.\(^2\)

**RISK**

- People on antibiotics are 7 to 10 times more likely to get *C. diff* while on the drugs and during the month after.\(^1\)
- Extended stays in healthcare settings, especially hospitals and nursing homes, also increase risk.
- More than 80% of *C. diff* deaths occur in people 65 and older.

**SPREAD**

- *C. diff* spreads when people touch surfaces that are contaminated with poop from an infected person.
- Or when people don’t wash their hands with soap and water.
- It can also happen when one healthcare facility fails to notify another when it transfers a patient with *C. diff*.

**Healthcare professionals can help PREVENT *C. diff* by:**

- Improving the way they prescribe antibiotics.
- Using the tests that give the most accurate results.
- Rapidly identifying and isolating patients with *C. diff*.
- Wearing gloves and gowns when treating patients with *C. diff*—and remembering that hand sanitizer doesn’t kill *C. diff*.
- Cleaning surfaces in rooms where *C. diff* patients are treated with EPA-approved, spore-killing disinfectant (see list K).

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\(^2\) Table 3 from Lessa FC, Mu Yi, Bamberg WM et al. N Engl J Med 2015;372:825-34. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa1408913