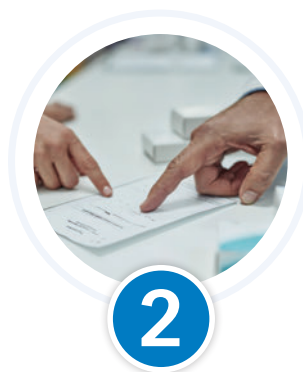


Prevention of *Clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*) Infection



1 Use infection control measures:

- Keep residents diagnosed with *C. difficile* in private rooms with their own dedicated toilet.
- Wear gloves and gowns when caring for residents with *C. difficile*.
- Perform hand hygiene before and after contact with residents with *C. difficile* and after removing gloves, using soap and water.
- Follow your home policy for cleaning and disinfection of any resident-care reusable equipment (e.g., blood pressure cuff, stethoscope).



2 Consider implementing an antimicrobial stewardship program (ASP):

- Your Clinical Consultant Pharmacist can help with establishing an ASP program that focuses on minimizing the use and duration of antibiotics, with special emphasis on antibiotics that increase the risk of *C. difficile*.



3 Maintain vigilance in prescribing and/or deprescribing medications:

- Proton pump inhibitors (PPIs): Consider deprescribing of PPIs in residents who do not have a clear indication for acid suppression.
- Probiotics: There is insufficient evidence to support use of probiotics in primary prevention of *C. difficile*. Further studies are needed to confirm the potential benefit of probiotic use in residents with elevated risk of *C. difficile*.

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