

## The ABC of *Clostridium difficile* infection:

**C**onsider *C difficile* infection in any adult with diarrhoea which is unusual for them, particularly in those over 55.

**D**iscuss relevant history including antibiotic use and hospital stays within the last 3 months.

**I**mmunosuppression, including cancer, steroid therapy and diabetes increase the likelihood of *C difficile* infection.

**F**ollow the 'Infectious Diarrhoea Specimen Advice: Quick Reference Guide for Primary Care'.

**F**aecal specimen collection advice leaflet: 'How to collect a stool specimen at home' should be given.

**I**nitiate rehydration therapy whilst awaiting stool sample result.

**C**ontact patient with result as soon as possible after *C difficile* positive result obtained.

**I**nitiate antibiotic therapy with Metronidazole 400mg tds for 10-14 days as per *C difficile* treatment algorithm.

**L**operamide or other anti-motility agents should be avoided due to the risk of toxic mega-colon and bowel rupture.

**E**nsure patient is flagged as at risk of future *C difficile* infection as relapse or reinfection is common and the patient is at increased risk with future antibiotic use.