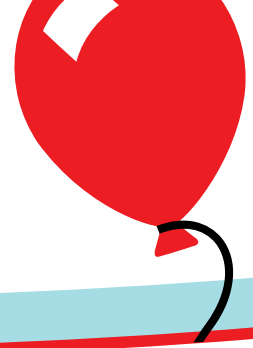


# Balloon Notes

## Caring for your child.



### Clostridium Difficile (C.diff)

- ***Clostridium difficile* (C.diff)** is a bacterium that can cause watery diarrhea and inflammation (swelling) of the intestine
- **Signs and Symptoms-** watery diarrhea, fever, stomach cramps, loss of appetite, nausea
- **How is C.diff diagnosed?** A sample of stool is sent to the lab
- **What is the treatment?** Antibiotics
- **How do you get C. diff?**

If your child's immune system is weak, they can get an infection from bacteria that are commonly found in the intestine. It can spread from person to person if people do not wash their hands well and regularly with soap and water. If an infected person does not wash their hands well and touches an object, the bacteria can live on that object for weeks. If you touch that object and get the bacteria on your hands, then eat food that you touch without washing your hands, you can get the bacteria into your intestine.

- **How to prevent the spread of C. diff-**
  - **Hand washing-** It is VERY important to wash your hands frequently. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand sanitizer/alcohol gel does **NOT** work against C.diff.
  - **Isolation-** This is to prevent the bacteria from spreading to other patients. Your child will be placed on Contact Enteric Precautions while in the hospital; this means the hospital staff will wear gowns and gloves when coming into your room. Also, your child may not leave the room except for medical purposes.

#### FAMILY RESTRICTIONS

- It is important to limit visitors while your child has C.diff so they do not spread the infection to others
- When staying with your child in the hospital, it is important to leave the room as little as possible to avoid spreading the infection to common areas
- When you must leave the room, it is VERY important to wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds (no hand sanitizer/alcohol gel)
- Instead of leaving the room, allow your nurse to help you by bringing you linens, water/juice, and packaging your food to be stored in the refrigerators