

## **PATIENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

It is important that you speak to the department you have been referred to if you have any questions (for example, about medication) before your investigation or procedure.

If you are unhappy about the service you have received and would like to talk about it or make a formal complaint, please contact Patient Advice and Liaison Service on 0300 123 1732.

If you have a complaint and you want it to be investigated, you should write direct to the Chief Executive at Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, Charles Hastings Way, Worcester WR5 1DD or contact the Patient Services Department for advice.

If you would like this information in other formats or languages please call 01905 760453 or email: [communications@worcsacute.nhs.uk](mailto:communications@worcsacute.nhs.uk).

**[www.worcsacute.nhs.uk](http://www.worcsacute.nhs.uk)**

## **CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE**

(May be referred to as C.diff)

### **PATIENT INFORMATION**

Answers to some frequently  
asked questions about  
Clostridium difficile

## **WHAT IS CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE?**

Clostridium difficile are bacteria that cause diarrhoea.

Frequently it follows antibiotic treatment.

## **WHO IS AFFECTED?**

It can affect anybody but it is more common in the elderly patients who are more vulnerable to infection and those who have had gastrointestinal procedures or surgery.

## **HOW DOES THE INFECTION OCCUR?**

Some antibiotics affect the normal intestinal bacteria and these changes allow Clostridium difficile to become established and multiply.

The bacteria then produce toxins, which damage the lining of the intestine and cause inflammation leading to diarrhoea.

## **CAN IT BE TREATED?**

YES - most patients respond very well to stopping antibiotics and ensuring they have adequate fluids.

Some patients may require special antibiotics which are effective on the bacteria in the intestine. The doctors will decide if you need these and will inform you of any treatment, which is prescribed.

You may be nursed in a single room until your stools return to normal.

You will have a bell to enable you to call for a nurse.

For your safety and others a notice will be on your door informing staff of the need to take precautions.

## **HOW HAVE I GOT CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE?**

You may have already been carrying the bacteria, or you may have acquired it since your admission to hospital.

## **CAN I HAVE VISITORS?**

Visitors will need to wear an apron and wash their hands before entering the patients room.

Before leaving the patients' room, visitors will need to remove apron, dispose in the yellow bin and wash their hands.

Visitors need to use hand sanitising gel before leaving the ward.

As with all hospital visiting it is advisable that visitors are well themselves.

For further information please ask the nursing staff to contact a member of the Infection Control Team who will be happy to speak to you.

Or contact the Infection Control Teams on:-

Worcester

01905 763333 Ext. 33605

Redditch/Kidderminster

01527 503030 ext. 44744