WESTERN MARYLAND HEALTH SYSTEM
Physician Orders

REMINDER: ALL MEDICATION ORDERS REQUIRE DOSE, ROUTE, FREQUENCY AND INDICATION
DO NOT USE ABBREVIATIONS

DOCTORS ORDERS **NURSING PROTOCOL FOR TESTING FOR CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE TOXIN**	**CHECK OFF/ INITIALS**
PURPOSE: All patients admitted with diarrhea or developing diarrhea during hospitalization are to be tested for Clostridium difficile.	
A. ORDER: Obtain physician order for Nursing Protocol for testing for Clostridium Difficile Toxin.	
PROCEDURE: B. Testing: 1. For any patient admitted with diarrhea, obtain a specimen for Clostridium difficile.	
2. If a patient develops diarrhea post admission, obtain a specimen for Clostridium difficile.	
3. The test is to be ordered times 3, collected 24 hours apart while the patient is hospitalized. Specimens submitted more frequently will not be tested.	
4. Once a C. difficile test result is positive, NO additional specimens are to be submitted. This assay is not to be used as a test of cure.	
C. Isolation: 1. A patient with diarrhea regardless of continence or incontinence are to be placed on CONTACT isolation, and tested for C. difficile as described in Part A and maintained in CONTACT isolation for 24 hours after diarrhea symptoms subside.	
2. C-difficile positive patients are placed on CONTACT isolation and maintained on CONTACT isolation for 24 hours after diarrhea symptoms subside.	

Physician:	**Nurse/Date/Time:**	**Secretary/Date/Time:**
Approved by MEC 1/09		

Full page of orders requires only one physician, one nurse and one clerical signature

Original to Patient's Chart **Fax to Pharmacy**