



# *C. difficile* Myth #3

## 11/9/2015

**MYTH:** All hospitalized patients with fever and leukocytosis should be tested for *C. difficile*.

**FACT:** 20% of hospitalized patients are colonized with *C. difficile*. Prior to ordering a *C. difficile* test, assess and consider whether the patient has:

1. Diarrhea ( $\geq 3$  loose stools  $\leq 24$  hours)
2. History of recent antibiotic use
3. A non-infectious cause of diarrhea (e.g. laxative use, other medications, mucositis, GVHD, inflammatory bowel diseases, dietary changes)

Hospital Onset Case Rate FY2016 TD through October: 11.6/10,000 patient days

IAP Goal FY2016: Reduce hospital onset *C. difficile* rate to 11.1 cases / 10,000 patient days.