## C. difficile Testing Algorithm

Mount Sinai Hospital

No

Does the patient have diarrhea (three or more liquid stools per day)?

Yes

Do NOT test for *C. difficile*. Positive tests can reflect colonization.

No

Does the patient have other signs of *C. difficile* infection? (fever, elevated WBC, abdominal distention)?

Yes

- Investigate other causes of diarrhea (i.e., tube feeds, contrast, antibioticassociated).
- Discontinue orders for laxatives, stool softeners and unnecessary PPIs/ antibiotics.

## Diarrhea persists

- Consider discussing case with IC and/or ID
  Consider sending C. difficile test if other risk
  factors present (≥ 65, antibiotic use, recent
  hospitalization, abdominal surgery,
  transplant, heme malignancy).
- Multiple assays for *C. difficile* NOT necessary.

*C. difficile* testing is recommended. Send specimen to lab immediately especially if symptoms are present on admission.

- Document testing indication in chart.
- Limit antibiotic therapy.
- Use "Special (brown) Contact Precautions" sign.
- Wash hands with soap and water.
- Use dedicated patient equipment and disinfect with bleach.
- Instruct patient not to use community bathroom(s) and provide commode/bedpan if needed.
- Educate visitors prior to entering patient's room.
- Contact Precautions can only be discontinued by IC or ID.