Effective Health Care

Transmission of Community-Acquired Clostridium Difficile

Next Steps

The nominator is interested in research about the transmission of community-acquired clostridium difficile.

Due to limited program resources AHRQ will not further assess this topic at this time. We identified two references which may be useful for the nominator. No further activity on this topic will be undertaken by the Effective Health Care (EHC) Program.

Topic Summary and Considerations

Topic Name and Number: Transmission of Community-Acquired Clostridium Difficile, #736

Date: 8/3/2017

Key question from the nomination:
What are the ways that clostridium difficile is transmitted in the community, outside of healthcare settings?

- Clostridium difficile is a gram-positive, anaerobic bacterium generally acquired through ingestion. Not all individuals exposed to clostridium difficile become infected and develop symptoms.
- Symptoms of Clostridium difficile infection can range from mild diarrhea to severe cases including pseudomembranous colitis, toxic megacolon, and death.
- Estimated community-associated CDI (infections outside of the hospital or other health-related facility) was 51.75 per 100,000 in 2013 (1).
- While we are unable to further assess this topic at this time, these references may be useful to the nominator
    - Butler M, Olson A, Drekonja D, Shaukat A, Schwehr N, Shippee N, Wilt TJ. Early Diagnosis, Prevention, and Treatment of Clostridium difficile: Update. Comparative Effectiveness Review No. 172. (Prepared by the Minnesota Evidence-based Practice Center under Contract No. 290-2012-00016-I.) AHRQ Publication No. 16-EHC012-EF. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; March 2016.
    - Chitnis AS, Holzbauer SM, Belflower RM, et al. Epidemiology of Community-Associated Clostridium difficile Infection, 2009 Through 2011. JAMA Intern Med. 2013;173(14):1359-1367. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2013.7056

References

1. 2013 Annual Report for the Emerging Infections Program for Clostridium difficile Infection. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2014.