



Effective Health Care

***Clostridium difficile*-associated disease (CDAD) Nomination Summary Document**

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- *Clostridium difficile*-associated disease (CDAD) will go forward for refinement as a comparative effectiveness or effectiveness review. The scope of this topic, including populations, interventions, comparators, and outcomes, will be further developed in the refinement phase.
- When the research review has been drafted, it will be posted on the AHRQ Web site and open for public comment. To sign up for notification when this and other Effective HealthCare (EHC) Program topics are posted for public comment, please go to <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/getinvolved.cfm?invovetype=subscribe>.
- This topic could also be considered for a potential new research project within the EHC Program.

Topic Description

Nominator: Public payer

Nomination Summary: The nominator questions the best way to make an early diagnosis of *Clostridium difficile* and prevent complications. The nominator questions what hospital prevention strategies should be put in place and required of all hospitals.

Key Questions from Nominator: None

Considerations

- The topic meets all EHC Program selection criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- CDAD can range from mild diarrhea to much more severe forms, including toxic megacolon and severe colitis necessitating colectomy. Prevention of CDAD includes hand washing, in-hospital infection control, appropriate antibiotic prescribing, and effective treatment of existing disease.
- No recent systematic review was identified that addresses all aspects of the nomination. A search on clinicaltrials.gov resulted in 38 ongoing or recently completed trials related to this topic. Data from the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) show a recent upswing in the number of CDAD infections. Therefore, a comprehensive systematic review on CDAD is timely.

- The literature on this topic indicates that large studies with more standardized treatment regimens are needed to evaluate the effectiveness of treatments for CDAD. Potential new research on this topic could address this evidence gap and could also evaluate risk factors for CDAD.