

C. DIFF INFECTION — AM I AT RISK?

Talk with your healthcare professional about your risk for developing *C. diff* infection before starting an antibiotic.

What is *C. diff* infection?

C. diff is a germ (bacterium) that causes diarrhea and colitis (an inflammation of the colon). *C. diff* infection can be life-threatening.

Who is at risk for *C. diff* infection?



C. diff can affect anyone. You are 7 to 10 times more likely to get *C. diff* infection while taking antibiotics and during the month after. That's because antibiotics that fight bacterial infections by killing bad germs can also get rid of the good germs that protect the body against harmful infections, like *C. diff* infections.

Other risk factors include:



Previous infection with *C. diff* or known exposure to the germs



Older age



Recent stay at a hospital or nursing home



A weakened immune system (examples: people with HIV/AIDS, cancer, or who take immune suppressing drugs)

Symptoms of *C. diff* infection can include:



Diarrhea



Fever



Stomach tenderness or pain



Loss of appetite



Nausea

Clostridioides difficile (*C. diff*) is estimated to cause almost half a million infections in the United States each year.



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SMART USE, BEST CARE



www.cdc.gov/cdiff
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