



Service Priorities and Programmes
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Pre-emptive contact precaution for suspected infectious associated diarrhea

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Introduction

Clostridium Difficile (CD) and Norovirus are among the commonest organisms causing health-care associated diarrhea. Nosocomial acquisition and clustering can occur via person to person transmission from contaminated hands of health care workers, medical equipment, and hospital environment. Therefore, pre-emptive contact precaution should be implemented as early as the symptoms occur, not after confirmation by laboratory tests.

Objectives

Prevention of gastroenteritis clustering caused by organisms such as Clostridium Difficile and Norovirus

Methodology

Methodology attached

Result

• From 2011 to Dec 2012, there were 19 patients of Norovirus and 17 patients of CD identified in M&G wards. No CD or Norovirus clustering was identified.
• In Dec 2011, there was one patient with GE symptoms and he was put under pre-emptive contact precaution since admission. He was suspected to have Norovirus infection. However, his rectal swab showed Vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus (VRE). Since the pre-emptive precaution had been implemented since admission, the risk of spreading VRE was minimized and no VRE clustering was identified.
