

Guidance notes for submittal of *C. difficile* isolates for outbreak investigation.



National Public Health
Service for Wales

Gwasanaeth Iechyd Cyhoeddus
Cenedlaethol Cymru

Our Criteria are as follows:-

- Sudden increase in cases of *C.difficile* disease over your baseline rate.
- Increased severity of disease and/or deaths associated with *C. difficile* infection.
- A maximum of 10 isolates per referral would normally be most appropriate.
- **Complete** ARU *C.difficile* PCR ribotyping request form (including patient names, dates of birth and NHS number) as well as the full contact details of the sender and the HPA laboratory performing culture (if applicable).
- **Completed Outbreak Questionnaire**-see HPA (www.hpa.org.uk/cfi/ar1) or NPHS websites.
- Faeces samples are not accepted – Please store aliquots from cases of interest for subsequent culture.
- Single isolates will not normally be tested - please discuss these with the Head of the Laboratory prior to sending.

Do not fill in the heavily bordered blue boxes marked ‘for ARL use only’

Please ensure that you have completed the outbreak questionnaire available on the HPA or NPHS websites.

The column marked “origin” can be completed using the following abbreviations:-

HP = Hospital Patient

CP= Community patient

NK = Not Known

HE= Hospital Environment

NE=Nursing Home Environment

GE= General Environment

Isolates to be submitted to;

Anaerobe Reference Laboratory, NPHS Microbiology, Cardiff,
University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, CF14 4XW

Or preferably by HAYS DX to; Anaerobe Reference
Laboratory, DX6070100, CARDIFF 90 CF.

Tel: 0292074(2171) or (2378)