



#### KEY POINTS:

- Avoid unnecessary testing. The first test, the C. difficile PCR, is a very sensitive test. C diff PCR+ means the sample carries C. difficile organisms with the genetic material capable of producing toxin. A positive PCR test could mean CDI or could mean C. difficile colonization. The latter does not need CDI treatment.
- Reflex testing for C. difficile toxin EIA differentiates between CDI, which warrants treatment, and colonization, which does not.
- CDI is a toxin-mediated disease, so diarrhea in patients with C. diff PCR+/toxin EIA+ confirms the diagnosis of CDI. On the other hand, diarrhea in most patients with C. diff PCR+/toxin (-) do not have CDI and do not warrant CDI treatment. If strong clinical suspicion of CDI remains for a patient with a C Diff PCR+/toxin (-) result, however, treat.