

# INFECTIOUS DIARRHOEA – ANTIBIOTIC PRESCRIBING V2.0

## Comments from the Expert Advisory Group

Antibiotic therapy is not indicated for infectious diarrhoea for patients who are systemically well. If patients are systemically unwell or post-antibiotic, suggesting *Clostridioides difficile*, antibiotics may be indicated, discuss with Consultant Microbiologist.

Consider seeking advice from a consultant microbiologist and send a faecal sample to microbiology for testing in the following circumstances:

- The patient is systemically unwell or has severe or bloody diarrhoea
- The patient has persistent diarrhoea > 5 days
- The patient is a returning traveller
- The patient is at high risk for severe disease

Consider shigellosis as a differential diagnosis in adult males who present with bloody diarrhoea.

- [Recommendations on aspects of management of shigellosis in Ireland in the context of current antimicrobial resistant Shigella species associated with gay, bisexual and men who have sex with men \(gbMSM\)](#)

[HPSC guidance: Infectious Intestinal Disease: Public Health & Clinical Guidance](#)

## Patient Information

The HSE Health A-Z website provides useful patient information:

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/diarrhoea-vomiting/>