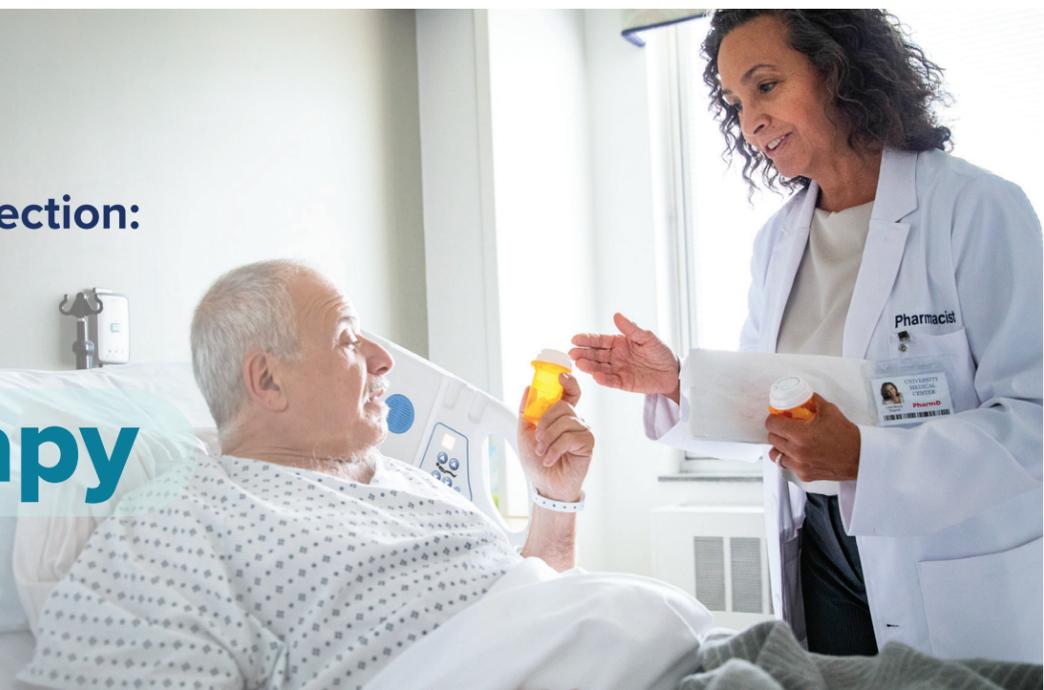


Protect your patients from *C. diff* infection:

# Optimize Antibiotic Therapy



Take steps to minimize the risk of *C. diff* infection when prescribing an antibiotic.

## 1 Prescribe the most targeted and safest antibiotic.

### For patients with history of *C. diff* infection:

Avoid the use of higher-risk antibiotics when other effective therapy is available



### For patients reporting a penicillin allergy:

Assess whether they are truly allergic to decrease unnecessary use of higher-risk antibiotics

## 2 Use the shortest effective duration of therapy, based on the patient's clinical course and response to therapy.

Refer to national and facility treatment guidelines when determining duration of therapy



For hospitalized patients, factor in the inpatient duration of antibiotic treatment when determining post-discharge therapy

## 3 Educate your patients about their risk for and symptoms of *C. diff* infection.

## 4 Reassess antibiotic therapy based on your patient's clinical condition and relevant diagnostic test results.



**Higher-risk antibiotics that are more likely to predispose your patient to *C. diff* infection:**

Clindamycin

Fluoroquinolones (e.g., ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin)

Third/fourth generation cephalosporins (e.g., ceftriaxone and cefepime)



Learn more at  
[cdc.gov/c-diff](https://cdc.gov/c-diff)  
[cdc.gov/antibiotic-use](https://cdc.gov/antibiotic-use)

