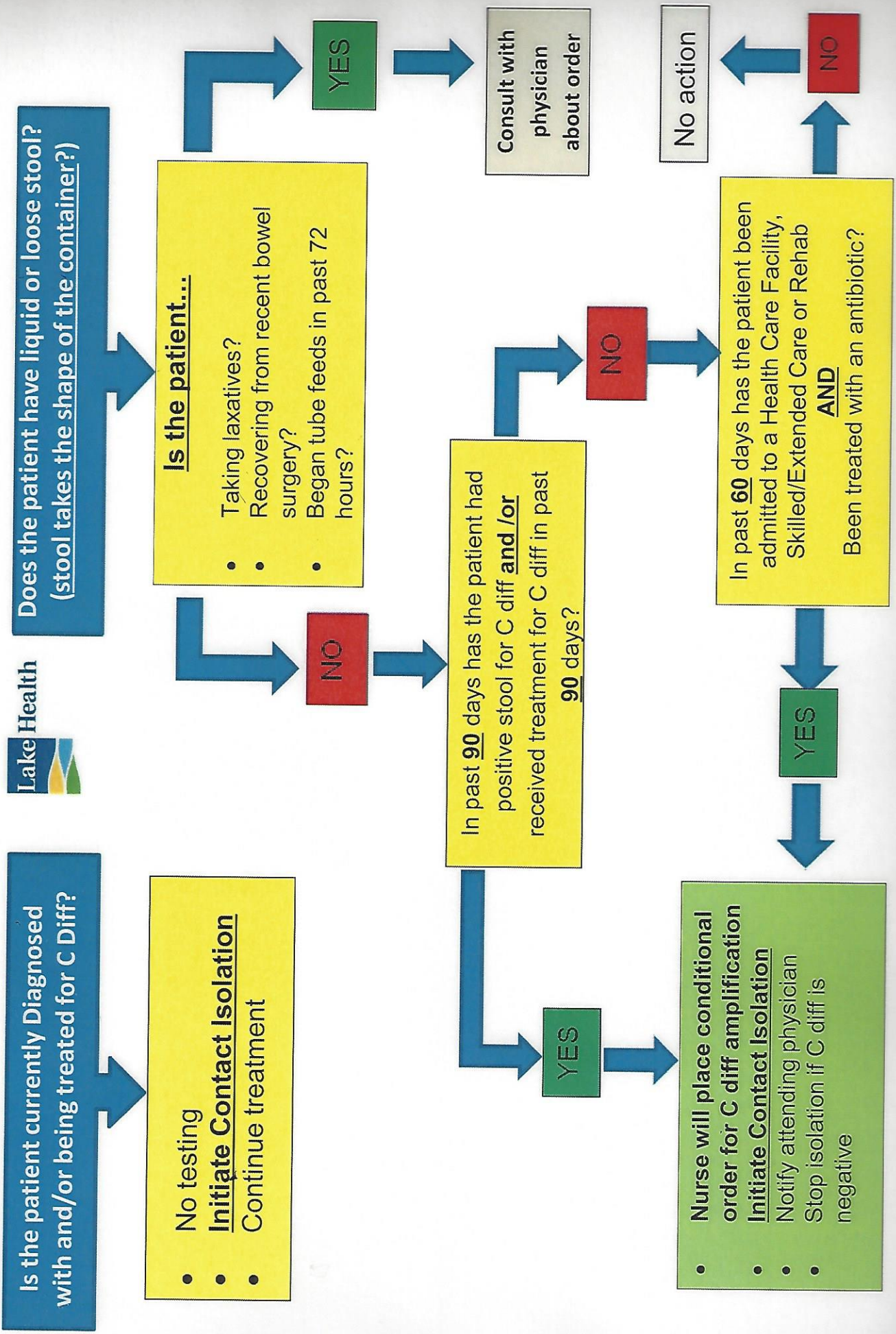


Lake Health Nurse-Driven Protocol for Testing and Initiating Isolation for Clostridium difficile



LAKE HEALTH
POLICY MANUAL

SUBJECT: Lake Health Nurse Protocol for Testing and Initiating Isolation for Clostridium difficile	EFFECTIVE: REVISED: REVIEWED:
POLICY NO: I- 3-1	ORIGINATED BY: Infection Control 09/14 APPROVED BY:

POLICY:

Nursing will utilize the Clostridium difficile algorithm for testing and initiation of isolation for all hospitalized patients presenting with diarrhea that meet the criteria as listed on the algorithm. Nursing will enter a conditional order in Soarian for those patients who meet the criteria and follow the required steps.

PURPOSE:

According to the CDC, Clostridium difficile infection (CDI) now rivals MRSA as the most common organism to cause healthcare-associated infections and is one of the most problematic pathogens in healthcare institutions. There are several infection prevention strategies to combat this spore-producing organism. This nurse-driven protocol focuses on the importance of early identification and isolation of patients with suspected CDI.

Important steps to take to mitigate the potential for spread include early identification of patients presenting with diarrhea that meets the criteria as stated on the algorithm, prompt initiation of contact isolation, and prompt stool collection for lab confirmation.

Early identification can be maximized with nurse driven protocols which give approval to nurses to initiate orders based on admission screening or change in patient status.

Purpose of this policy is to assist the nursing staff in early identification of patients at risk for having C. difficile infection (CDI), for timely and appropriate stool collection, and for prompt initiation of contact isolation.

PROCEDURE:

1. Nursing will utilize the steps as outlined on the algorithm to direct care for patients with diarrhea
2. If there is no order for a C diff amplification, the nurse will enter a conditional order for C. diff amplification in Soarian
3. The attending physician will co-sign the order.
4. The nurse will initiate contact isolation and will discontinue if the test is negative