

Recently discharged patients pose risk for spreading *C. difficile* infection

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Asymptomatic patients recently discharged from a hospital may be a

source of household transmission of *Clostridioides difficile* infection (CDI), according to a study published in the May issue of *Emerging Infectious Diseases*.

Aaron C. Miller, from University of Iowa in Iowa City, and colleagues evaluated whether hospitalized patients without diagnosed CDI increased the risk for CDI among their [family members](#) after [discharge](#). Analysis used U.S. insurance claims data (2001 to 2017).

The researchers found that CDI incidence among insurance enrollees exposed to a recently hospitalized family member was 73 percent greater than enrollees not exposed, and incidence increased with length of hospitalization among family members. There was a dose-response relationship observed between total days of within-household hospitalization and CDI incidence rate ratio. The incidence rate ratio increased from 1.30 for one to three days of hospitalization to 2.45 for >30 days of hospitalization, compared to persons whose family members were hospitalized less than one day.

"Asymptomatic *C. difficile* carriers discharged from hospitals could be a major source of community-associated CDI cases and should be considered by public health authorities during surveillance and intervention-based investigations when a CDI outbreak occurs," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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