A National Survey of Testing Practices for Asymptomatic Carriage of *C. difficile*

Preeta K. Kutty, MD, MPH,* Susan E. Beekmann RN, MPH,** Ronda L. Sinkowitz-Cochran, MPH,* David T. Kuhar, MD,* L. Clifford McDonald, MD, Philip Polgreen, MD,* Susan E. Beekmann RN, MPH,* Ronda L. Sinkowitz-Cochran, MPH,* Philip Polgreen, MD,* L. Clifford McDonald, MD,*

1Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA; 2Infectious Diseases Society of America Emerging Infections Network; 3University of Iowa College of Medicine, Iowa City, IA.

**A National Survey of Testing Practices for Asymptomatic Carriage of *C. difficile***

**BACKGROUND:**
- *Clostridioides difficile* is a Gram-positive, spore-forming, anaerobic bacterium.
- *C. difficile* is an emerging threat in the United States.
- Asymptomatic carriage is considered a potential infectious reservoir.
- While much is known about symptomatic *C. difficile*, asymptomatic carriage is less understood.

**METHODS:**
- The Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) Emerging Infections Sentinel Network (EIN) is a provider-based emerging infectious sentinel network.
- The EIN is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and sponsored by the IDSA.
- To assess current clinical practices, a web-based survey was distributed to 1,309 U.S.-based infectious disease physicians with adult practice.
- EIN staff at the coordinating center sent the initial invitation by email or fax with two reminders
- A confidential, 9-question multiple choice/open-ended survey
- No incentive for participation was provided

**RESULTS:**

**Survey Respondents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>n (%)</th>
<th>1309 U.S. based adult infectious disease specialists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>(n=22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>679 (52%) respondents</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Demographic Characteristics (n=22)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>n (%)</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Female</strong></td>
<td>20 (90%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>35±20 years</strong></td>
<td>18 (82%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2 to 10 years</strong></td>
<td>11 (50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1 to 5 years</strong></td>
<td>7 (32%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>&lt;1 year</strong></td>
<td>6 (27%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CONCLUSIONS:**

- The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**LIMITATIONS:**
- Modified response rate
- May limit the generalizability of these results to all ED physicians
- Members of EIN may not be representative of the majority of physicians
- Self-reported data

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

- The National Emerging Special Pathogens Program collaborated with
- The Infections Disease Society of America (IDSA)

**REFERENCES:**

- There were no financial disclosures associated with this project.

**CONTACT:**

Preeta K. Kutty, MD, MPH, Senior Medical Officer, CDC, Atlanta
Fax: 404-315-2379
Email: pkutty@cdc.gov

Visit: www.cdc.gov | Contact CDC at: 1-800-CDC-INFO or www.cdc.gov/info

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- No incentive for participation was provided.

**Results:**

- **Survey Respondents**
  - 2016: 1,309 U.S. based adult infectious disease specialists.
  - 679 (52%) respondents.

- **Demographic Characteristics (n=22)**
  - Female: 20 (90%)
  - Age range: 20-20 years (82%)
  - Experience since ID fellowship: 2 to 10 years (50%)
  - <1 year: 6 (27%)

**Conclusions:**

- The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.