Although C. difficile is a clinical diagnosis, here are some tools to help:

**Risk factors:**
- Health care environment
- Advanced age (65+)
- Antibiotic use, cardiac or kidney disease, inflammatory bowel disease

**Disease indications:**
- Unexplained, new diarrhea
- 3+ unformed stools in 24 hours

**Possible CDI**

- Bacterium produces toxin > diarrhea/colon inflammation
- PCR Positive or GDH Positive + Toxin EIA Positive

**Unclear (PCR/GDH positive)**

**Possible CDI colonization**

**Additional tests**

**CDI Infection (both positive)**

**Initial CDI infection**

- Non-severe
- Severe
- Fulminant
- with IBD

**CDI unlikely (both negative)**

**Recurrent CDI**

- First recurrence
- Second + recurrence

Click for more information.

PCR = Polymerase Chain Reaction; GDH = Glutamate Dehydrogenase; EIA = Enzyme-linked Immunosorbent Assay Toxin; FMT = Fecal Microbiota Transplantation