Acute Diarrhea (< 7 days)

Initial Assessment
Consider Epidemiologic Clues
- Food exposure
- Antibiotics
- Sick contacts
- Travel
- Duration of symptoms

Major Presenting Symptom

Diarrhea

Bloody diarrhea +/- fever
Differential Diagnosis suggests
- Bacteria, i.e. Salmonella, Shigella
- Parasites, i.e. Amebiasis

Recommended Actions
Laboratory
- CBC
- Stool culture
- Consider Ova & Parasites for diarrhea > 7 days

Treatment
- Empiric Antibiotic Therapy PLUS
- Loperamide OR Bismuth Salicylate
- Hydration

Reporting
- MER for reportable causes of diarrhea
- Report suspected outbreaks

Education
- Handwashing
- Approved Food sources

Vomiting

Watery diarrhea +/- fever
Differential Diagnosis suggests
- Viral gastroenteritis, i.e. Norovirus
- Traveler’s diarrhea, i.e. E. coli

Recommended Actions
Laboratory
- Stool culture
- Norovirus detection by PCR

Treatment
- Empiric Antibiotic Therapy PLUS
- Loperamide OR Bismuth Salicylate
- Hydration

Reporting
- MER for reportable causes of diarrhea
- Report suspected outbreaks

Education
- Handwashing
- Approved Food sources
- Environmental cleaning for Norovirus