Diarrhea in Primary Care Adults

NONCOMPLICATED CLINICAL COURSE

No stool testing indicated
[(most diarrheas are self-limiting (eg, viral pathogens)]

COMPLICATED CLINICAL COURSE

- Advanced age (>65 yrs)
- Comorbidities (eg, heart failure, diabetes mellitus, chronic kidney disease)
- Dysentery or bloody stools

Risk factors for C. difficile

Yes
No

Refer to C. difficile algorithm

Duration >14 days

Negative for C. difficile

Parasite panel by PCR (should include Giardia lamblia/intestinalis/duodenalis; Cryptosporidium; Cyclospora cayetanensis; Dientamoeba fragilis; Entamoeba histolytica, and Microsporidia)

Bacterial stool culture OR Stool bacterial PCR panel (eg, multiplex panel that includes at least Salmonella, Shigella, Shiga toxin [STEC], and Campylobacter testing)*

*Salmonella, Shigella, and Campylobacter are considered treatable disorders in these subgroups, but STEC should not be treated