Algorithm 2: Suggested guidelines for treatment of Clostridium difficile- infections - Relapse

Treatment of first episode completed

Relapse after therapy

Is diarrhea mild, moderate-severe or life-threatening?

Mild, Moderate-severe or life-threatening

Repeat course of antibiotic therapy as per the first episode algorithm, for mild cases treat as per moderate-severe guidelines X 10-14 days (resistance is extremely rare)

Patient responds & later relapses

Consult ID before using other agents, such as cholestyramine, rifampin, tapering dosage of metronidazole or other therapy with probiotics

Week  Vancomycin taper  Vancomycin 125mg po QID + Rifampin 300-600mg po BID X 7-14 days or Vancomycin in tapering dose + Cholestyramine 4g BID X 5-7 days (at least 2 hours apart from all medications)  Vancomycin 500mg po QID or Metronidazole 500mg po/NG/IV Q8H X 14 days followed by Cholestyramine 4g TID X 21 days (at least 2 hours apart from all medications)  Vancomycin 500mg po QID x 10 days + S.boulardii 500mg po BID (beginning on day 7 of vanco therapy) x 4 weeks (via SAP- Health Canada)

Week 1 125mg po QID  Week 2 125mg po BID  Week 3 125mg po QD  Week 4 125mg po QOD  Week 5 125mg po Q3days  Week 6 125mg po Q3days