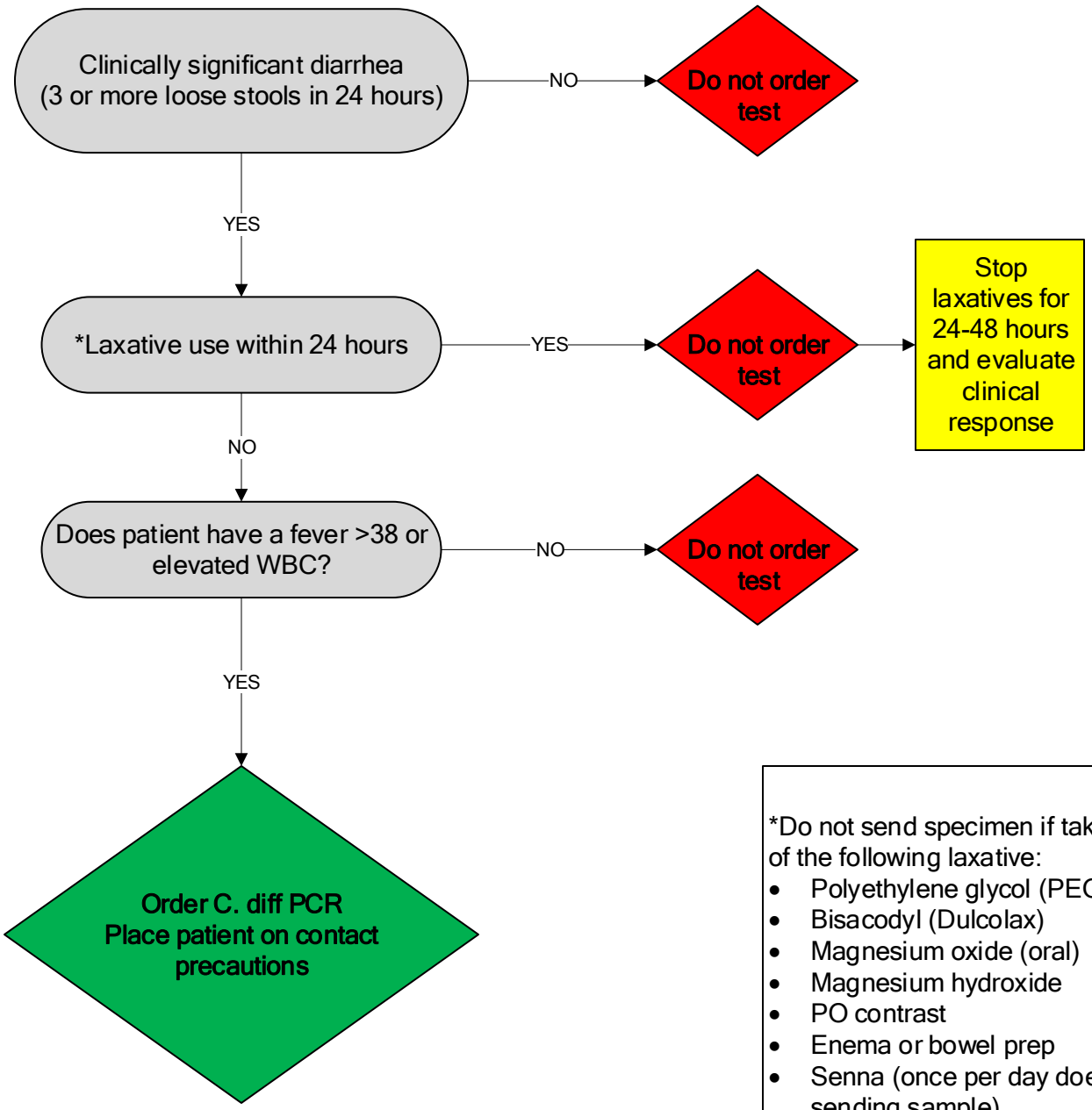
THE University of Vermont MEDICAL CENTER

C. difficile Testing Guidelines

Applies to UVMMC patients that have been admitted for >3 days. Do not delay testing if suspicion of C.diff exists on admission or within the first 3 days of admission.

If a patient is critically ill from sepsis in the setting of diarrhea with a high clinical suspicion for C.diff, providers are allowed to over-ride the below algorithm and are encouraged to not delay empiric treatment.



*Do not send specimen if taking one or more of the following laxative:

- Polyethylene glycol (PEG) (Miralax)
- Bisacodyl (Dulcolax)
- Magnesium oxide (oral)
- Magnesium hydroxide
- PO contrast
- Enema or bowel prep
- Senna (once per day does not prohibit sending sample)
- Lactulose (can send specimen without stopping if indicated for cirrhosis)

Date Reviewed: 12/5/2019