

**PROTOCOL #4** – Testing and Triage, University of New Mexico

**Acute Diarrhea**  
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**HISTORY**

*Duration:* travel, food exposures, water

*Stool character:* watery, bloody

*Pain:* abdominal, tenesmus

*Concurrent disease*

*Drugs*

**PHYSICAL EXAM**

*General:* Hydration, Fever, Nutrition

*Abdominal:* Distention, tenderness.

*Rectal:* FOBT

**INITIAL ASSESSMENT**

*Toxic, Prolonged course, Blood, Dehydration*

IV Fluids and electrolytes, CBC, Chemistries

Stool tests: WBC's w/ C & S is positive, consider C. diff, O & P, Giardia

Treatment: consider GI consult for diagnostic procedure if IBD suspect

Consider specific antibiotic therapy

Consider ameba serology

*Nontoxic, Short course, no GI bleeding, no tenderness or dehydration*

Oral rehydration

Antidiarrheal drugs

If no response, consider evaluation as above.