

## Staying Healthy After Your Investigational FMT

### Patient Guide: What to Expect After Your Investigational FMT

Your doctor should provide you with separate discharge instructions related to the specific procedure you had. This guidance offers information on what you might expect after your investigational Fecal Microbiota Transplantation (FMT).



**After your procedure:** Most patients begin to feel better within a few hours, but it can take up to 4 days to notice improvements. If you do not feel any better within 4 days, call your doctor and let them know. Sometimes people start to feel better but then their diarrhea returns. You should know that this is not always a return of *C. diff*. Ask your doctor about post-infectious IBS and other GI issues that may be causing the diarrhea.

**Side effects:** FMT is still investigational, meaning we do not know all the side effects a person might have afterwards. If you have any changes in your health after investigational FMT, let your doctor know right away. Some common symptoms that usually go away within 24 hours after investigational FMT are nausea, bloating, and mild cramping. If these last for more than 24 hours, call your doctor.



**Following up:** If you do not have signs of *C. diff*. for 8 weeks, you will be considered cured. Your doctor will call you or ask you to come back to their office in 8 weeks to check on you. It is important you keep this appointment and/or return any calls from your doctor.

**Probiotics & diet:** No studies have shown that taking probiotics after investigational FMT improves the chance of successful treatment. If you do want to take a probiotic, be sure to ask your doctor for recommendations. Generally, diets high in fiber seem to support healthier bacteria.



**Hand washing:** As with most diseases, washing your hands often helps keep you and those around you healthy. When possible, wash with soap and water. Hand sanitizer is okay, but should be used only when soap and water are not available.

**Taking antibiotics:** Antibiotics can be lifesaving medicines, but they also put you at risk for another *C. diff*. infection. If a doctor prescribes you anything, be sure to tell them that you have had *C. diff*. and a fecal transplant. This will help them pick the best medicine for you.

**Disclaimer:** OpenBiome provides investigational FMT to physicians (patients may not order directly from OpenBiome). Investigational FMT is not approved by the FDA, please consult with your physician to determine whether investigational FMT is a suitable treatment option. The information here should not be considered medical advice. Our hope is that it helps you have a more informed conversation with your doctor. If you have concerns, comments, or questions about these instructions, please write to us at [info@openbiome.org](mailto:info@openbiome.org)