LEARNING OBJECTIVES

On completion of this chapter, the reader will be able to:

1. Define and distinguish between watery diarrhea and dysenteric diarrhea.
2. Discuss the common clinical presentations of GI infections.
3. Describe the typical microbiology of GI infections.
4. Describe the appropriate indications for stool culture and its limitations.
5. Assess the degree of dehydration based on clinical presentation.
6. Choose the method of rehydration therapy based on dehydration status.
7. Recommend antibiotic therapy for GI infections.
8. Provide recommendation on the proper duration of treatment of GI infections given details of the patient condition and type of infection.
9. Describe the rationale and indication for antimotility agent use in diarrheal illnesses.
10. Describe the proper assessment of patients during treatment of GI infections.
12. Outline a treatment strategy for *C. difficile*–related pseudomembranous colitis.
13. Identify the appropriate patient population and clinical situation in which antibiotics should be used for the treatment of traveler’s diarrhea.
15. Describe the temporal timing relationships of bacterial causes of food poisoning and the severity and onset of symptoms.