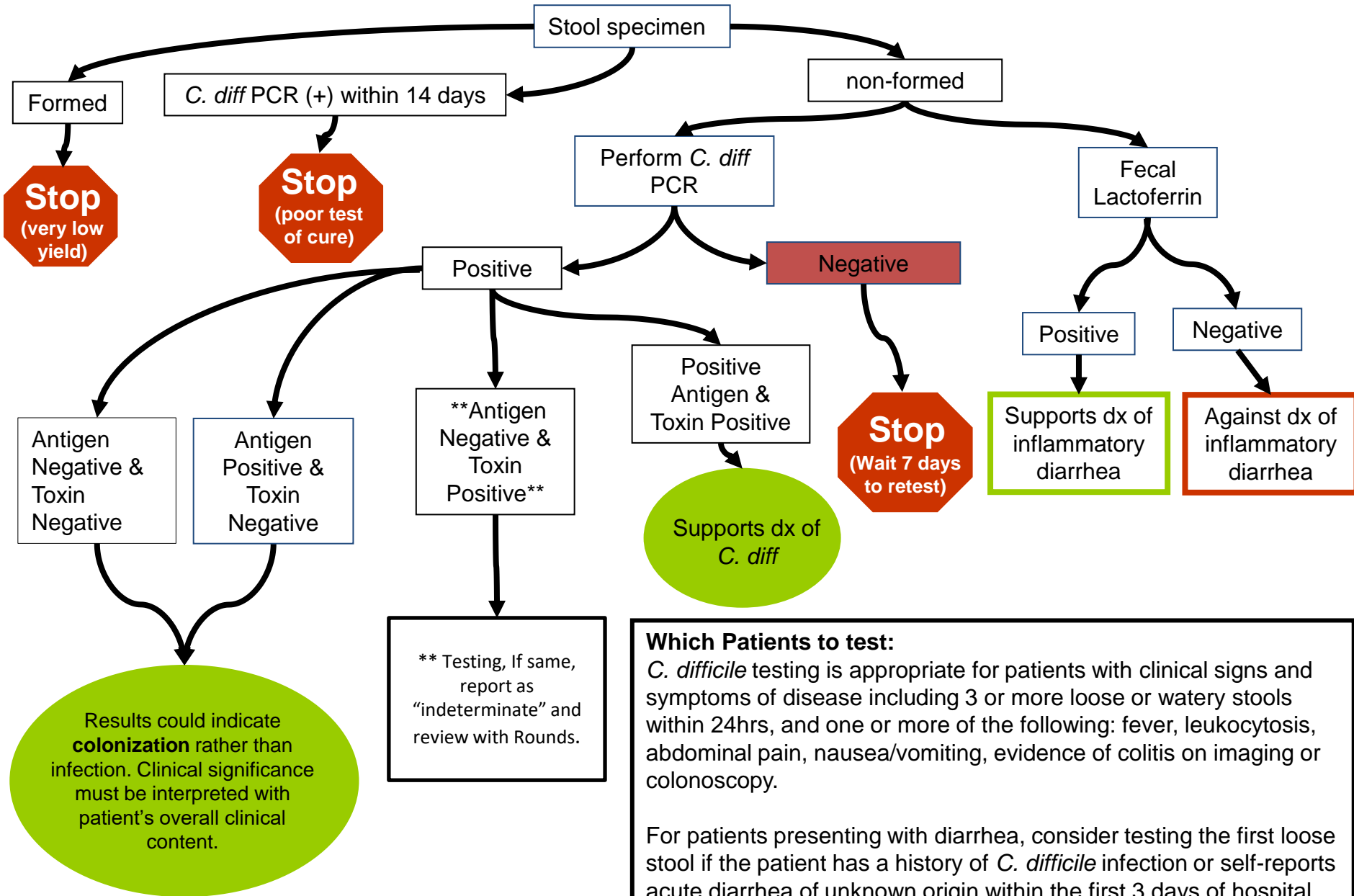


# Laboratory Diagnosis of *C. difficile* Disease



**Which Patients to test:**  
*C. difficile* testing is appropriate for patients with clinical signs and symptoms of disease including 3 or more loose or watery stools within 24hrs, and one or more of the following: fever, leukocytosis, abdominal pain, nausea/vomiting, evidence of colitis on imaging or colonoscopy.

For patients presenting with diarrhea, consider testing the first loose stool if the patient has a history of *C. difficile* infection or self-reports acute diarrhea of unknown origin within the first 3 days of hospital stay.