DO I REALLY NEED TO TREAT MY PATIENT FOR A UTI?

TREATING ASYMPTOMATIC BACTERIURIA HAS NO BENEFITS AND CAUSES HARM.

- Costs for Patients
- Lengthened Hospital Stays
- C. difficile infections
- Antibiotic resistance

MY PATIENT IS SICK, AND I SUSPECT A UTI. SHOULD I SEND A UA?

A May Be Helpful

When Patient Has
- Urination frequency
- Burning or pain during urination
- Urgency
- New blood in urine

No UA Needed
- Foul-smelling urine
- Urine color or cloudiness
- Altered mental status alone (sleepiness, confusion)
- Fever or leukocytosis without urinary symptoms

DECISION POINTS

1. Order a UA if symptomatic
2. Interpret UA
3. Order urine culture if UA+
4. Treat or adjust treatment based on culture results

For more information, review the 15-minute refresher on using UA and urine cultures in older adults.

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