

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

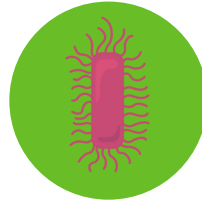
TREATING ASYMPTOMATIC BACTERIURIA HAS NO BENEFITS AND CAUSES HARM.



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 UA 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

Order a UA if
symptomatic

1

2

Interpret UA

Order urine
culture if UA+

3

Treat or adjust
treatment based
on culture results

4



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



North Carolina
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