

UTI Program: When to collect a urine specimen for culture and susceptibility for non-catheterized resident



Send a specimen if the resident has the following symptoms:

Resident has new difficult or painful urination (Acute dysuria)

Or

Clinical Signs & Symptoms of a UTI

Two or more of the following:

- **Fever** (Oral temperature greater than 37.9°C or 1.5°C above baseline on 2 consecutive occasions within 12 hours)
- **New flank pain or suprapubic pain or tenderness**
- **New or increased urinary frequency, urgency**
- **Gross hematuria**
- **Acute onset of delirium in residents with advanced dementia***

***Notes:**

- The **following behavioural changes** on their own **do not** indicate a UTI unless clinical symptoms develop (see box above):
 - Worsening functional status
 - Worsening mental status, increased confusion, delirium or agitation
- Falls should not be considered a presentation of infection



Do not collect a urine specimen

Unless a resident has symptoms of a urinary tract infection

Do not send a specimen for any of the following factors alone:

- **Pyuria or cloudy urine**
- **Fever (if non-catheterized)**
- **Smelly urine**
- **Change in urine colour**
- **Positive dipstick**
- **Dehydration**
- **Change in mental status**
- **Change in behaviour or function**
- **Falls**
- **Family request**

This resource is part of Public Health Ontario's Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) Program. For more information please visit www.publichealthontario.ca/UTI or email ipac@oahpp.ca.