Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) Program: When to obtain urine cultures in medically stable non-catheterized residents

I think my resident may have a UTI

Stop. Assess the resident. Does the resident have:

Clinical signs and symptoms of a UTI
- Resident has new difficult or painful urination (Acute dysuria)

OR

Non-specific symptoms only
- Worsening functional status
- Worsening mental status (e.g., new behavioural changes, increased confusion, acute delirium or agitation)
- Falls should not be considered a presentation of infection

Two or more of the following:
- Fever (oral temperature greater than 37.9°C or 1.5°C above baseline on two occasions within 12 hours)
- New flank pain or suprapubic pain or tenderness
- New or increased urinary frequency, urgency
- Gross hematuria

Take action
- Discuss with physician or nurse practitioner.
- If empiric antibiotics are prescribed, collect urine specimen for culture and susceptibility before antibiotic therapy is initiated.
- Urine specimen can be obtained as a mid-stream or in/out catheter specimen.

Yes

Review, assess, and consult
- Review urine culture results:
  - Bacterial count greater than $10^9$ CFU/L, with signs and symptoms is compatible with UTI
  - More than two different organisms indicates contamination
- Reassess resident for signs and symptoms:
  - Consult with the resident’s physician or nurse practitioner (NP) about the urine culture results and the resident’s status.

Encourage and monitor, assess and discuss
- 1. Encourage and monitor increased fluid intake for the next 24 hours, unless resident has clinical contraindications.
- 2. Assess for constipation and other causes of behaviour change.
- 3. Discuss with physician or nurse practitioner.

UTI symptoms develop
- Yes
  - No urine culture required
  - No UTI treatment required
  - Assess further regarding cause of non-specific symptoms
- No

This resource is part of Public Health Ontario’s UTI Program. It focuses on practice change 1 and 2. For more information, please visit publichealthontario.ca/UTI or email uti@roahpo.ca.

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