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

Do not collect a urine specimen

Unless a resident has symptoms of a urinary tract infection

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*

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

*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

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