Evidence-based criteria for urinary infection testing | Adults

**UTI symptoms**

- **No catheter**
  - Acute dysuria (alone can justify a urine test)
  - Temperature >38°C or 1.1°C above baseline
- **Catheter (indwelling)**
  - No other identifiable causes of infection
  - 1 or more of the following:
    - Temperature >38°C or 1.1°C above baseline
    - New flank pain or tenderness
    - New suprapubic pain or tenderness
    - Rigors/chills
    - New onset delirium

- **If above criteria not met (no UTI symptoms)**
  - Order urinalysis and urine culture

- **If more severe symptoms or suspected pyelonephritis**
  - Start empiric therapy
  - For treatment recommendations refer to Bugs & Drugs
  - When results are available ensure targeted therapy

- **If mild symptoms**
  - Await results of urine culture & susceptibility before starting treatment

- **If no catheter**
  - Start empiric therapy

**Older adult without UTI symptoms**

- Any of the following:
  - Alteration of cognitive / mental status from baseline
  - Lethargy
  - Weakness
  - Malaise
  - Falls
  - Irritable / aggressive behaviour

- **Remove catheter if possible**

**Suspected Sepsis**

- As part of the sepsis investigation

**Invasive urologic procedure**

- If mucosal bleeding or trauma is expected

**Pregnancy**

- Routine urine testing in the first trimester, according to guidelines.
- Refer to CMAJ Recommendations on screening for asymptomatic bacteriuria in pregnancy

**Multiple Sclerosis**

- Patients may experience new or worsening neurological symptoms with UTI
- Refer to Towards Optimized Practice Multiple Sclerosis & Management Of Urinary Tract Infection Clinical Practice Guidelines

**Spinal cord injury**

- Patients with neurogenic bladder may not be able to express signs of UTI
- Refer to Alberta SCI Bladder Management Pathway

**Urine culture testing may be indicated in...**

- **Suspected Sepsis**
- **Invasive urologic procedure**
- **Pregnancy**
- **Multiple Sclerosis**
- **Spinal cord injury**

**Resources & references:** www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page15718.aspx

---

**September 2019**

"Symptom-free pee: Let it be" used with permission from Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease Canada Copyright © 2019 Alberta Health Services. This material is protected by Canadian and other international copyright laws. All rights reserved. This material may not be copied, published, distributed or reproduced in any way, in whole or in part, without the express written permission of Alberta Health Services (please contact AHS.PharmaDrugStewardship@ahs.ca). This material is intended for general information only and is provided on an "as is" basis. Although reasonable efforts were made to ensure the accuracy of the information, Alberta Health Services does not make any representations or warranties, express, implied or statutory, as to the accuracy, reliability, completeness, applicability or fitness for a particular purpose of such information. This material is not a substitute for the advice of a qualified health professional. Alberta Health Services expressly disclaims all liability for the use of these materials, whether any claims, actions, demands or suits arising from such use.