Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group



DECISION AID FOR DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF SUSPECTED URINARY TRACT INFECTION (UTI) IN PEOPLE WITH INDWELLING CATHETERS

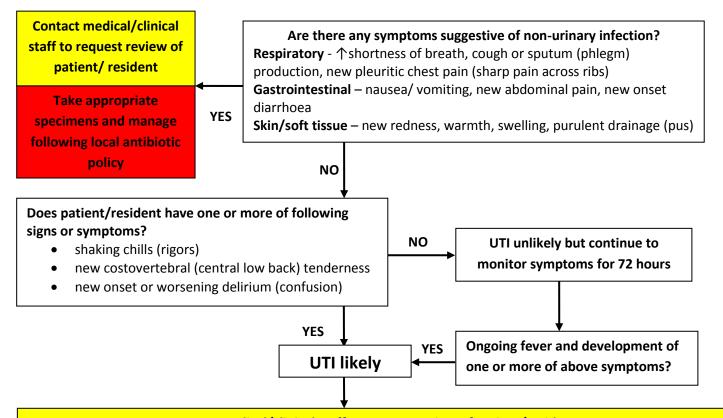
This flowchart has been designed to help nursing and care staff and prescribers manage catheterised patients/residents with urinary tract infection.

If a patient/resident has a fever (defined as temperature > 37.9°C or 1.5°C increase above baseline occurring on at least 2 occasions in last 12 hours) this suggests they have an infection.

Hypothermia (low temperature of <36°C) may also indicate infection, especially in those with co-morbidities (heart or lung disease, diabetes). Some patients/residents may also have non-specific symptoms of infection such as abdominal pain, alteration of behaviour or loss of diabetes control. The information overleaf provides good practice points and evidence sources for prescribers.

Yellow action boxes provide advice for nursing and care staff.

Red action boxes provide advice for nursing staff and prescribers (medical and non-medical).



Contact medical/clinical staff to request review of patient/resident

- Assess if retention or sub-acute retention of urine is likely blocked catheter or distended bladder
- DO NOT use dipstick test in diagnosis of UTI in people with indwelling catheters
- Obtain a sample for urine culture and send to Microbiology
- Start antibiotic therapy following local policy or as advised by Microbiology
- Remove and replace urinary catheter. Consider the ongoing need for a long term catheter in consultation with specialists.
- Consider use of analgesia (paracetamol or ibuprofen) to relieve pain
- Consider admission to hospital if patient has fever with chills or new onset hypotension (low blood pressure)
- Review response to treatment daily and if no improvement of symptoms or deterioration, consider admission to hospital or an increased level of care
- Ensure urine culture results are reviewed when available in order to streamline antibiotic therapy

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