

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 people with urinary tract infection. The national catheter passport should be used to support good practice in catheter care. Dipstick testing should not be used to diagnose UTI in patients with indwelling catheters. If a person 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 people may also have non-specific symptoms of infection such as abdominal pain, alteration of behaviour or loss of diabetes control.

Yellow action boxes (*) provide advice for nursing and care staff.

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

