

Your One Minute Brief on . . .

Date of issue:
17 June 2019

UTI in patients over 65 years old

Information for all staff:

NICE guidance (NG109) has information on treatment of UTI in all patient groups. NHS England is closely monitoring adherence to this guideline in older patients this year.

Specifically, dipsticks become more unreliable with increasing age over 65 years. Up to half of older adults, and most with a urinary catheter, will have bacteria present in the bladder/urine without an infection. This “asymptomatic bacteriuria” is not harmful, and although it causes a positive urine dipstick, antibiotics are not beneficial and may cause harm.

Actions Required:

- Do not perform urine dipsticks in patients over 65 years
- Base treatment on the signs and symptoms of UTI
- Treat as a UTI if new onset dysuria alone, OR two or more of the following:
 - Temperature 1.5°C above patient’s normal twice in the last 12 hours
 - New frequency or urgency
 - New incontinence
 - New or worsening delirium/debility
 - New suprapubic pain
 - Visible haematuria

If the patient has fever and delirium/debility only: consider other causes before treating for UTI

Check List for Prescribers

- Deliver the One Minute Brief face-to-face to your team
- Print and display this One Minute Brief for your staff to see it
- Familiarise yourself with the issue and ensure your staff are aware of the issue
- Ensure STAFF follow NICE guideline NG109

Check List for all staff

- Familiarise yourself with the issue
- Follow the antibiotic guidelines when treating UTI
- Don’t use urine dipstick results to diagnose UTI in patients over 65 years old

Contact details:

For more information contact:

- Microbiology
- m.bott@nhs.net
- Rebecca.hawkins3@nhs.net

Get connected . . .



www.sath.nhs.uk
communications@sath.nhs.uk



@sathNHS



SaTHChatterbox



sathNHS

YouTube

sathNHS



Proud To **Care**
Make It **Happen**
We Value **Respect**
Together We **Achieve**