

Advice to care home staff regarding older people (>65 years) with suspected Urinary Tract Infection (UTI)

DO NOT use dipstick test in the diagnosis of UTI in older people¹.



DO complete 'Assessment tool: Guidance for care home staff regarding older people (>65 years) with suspected UTI'



ONLY send urine for culture & sensitivities for residents who have been assessed as having:



ONE or more symptoms of UTI for residents WITH urinary catheter

OR

TWO or more symptoms of UTI for residents WITHOUT a urinary catheter

Symptoms must be reported on the lab form when sample submitted for testing.

Smelly or dark urine is NOT a sign of UTI without other symptoms present – advise resident to drink more fluids

¹Presence of bacteria in the urine may be a normal finding in care home residents over 65 years of age. Evidence suggests up to 50% of residents and 100% of people with a long-term catheter will have bacteria in the urine without developing an infection (asymptomatic bacteriuria).

Residents assessed as having symptoms of a UTI need referring to a clinician for a face-to-face assessment before antibiotics are prescribed.