UTI Laboratory Testing Guide

Asymptomatic [#]

– Elderly*

– Non-pregnant women

– Indwelling urinary catheter

– Spinal cord injuries

NO clinical reason for testing

NO urine to Laboratory

[#] Screening for **asymptomatic bacteriuria** is **NOT** recommended in this patient group.

DO NOT perform a dipstick urinalysis.

The following are **NOT** symptoms of UTI and **NO urine test** is required:

- Smelly urine
- Cloudy urine
- Concentrated urine

(*Refer to Pathlab guide, "UTI Laboratory Testing Guide for the Elderly")

Asymptomatic

– Pregnant

– Urological Surgery pre-op only when breaching the mucosa.

Laboratory Testing Recommended

Urine type (e.g. MSU, CSU, Clean catch)

Tests required (e.g. M,C & S)

Clinical symptoms/details & treatment (compulsory)

Symptomatic [§]

– Non-pregnant women without additional risk factors

Empiric treatment

No laboratory testing

NO urine to Laboratory

[§]**UTI not requiring culture in non-pregnant women:**

- Lower urinary tract (bladder) infection
- Cystitis
- Unobstructed genitourinary tract
- No instrumentation
- No known anatomical or functional urinary tract abnormality

Symptomatic [¥]

– Women with additional risk factors, pregnant women, men, children

Empiric treatment

Laboratory Testing Recommended

Urine type (e.g. MSU, CSU, Clean catch)

Tests required (e.g. M,C & S)

Clinical symptoms/details & treatment (compulsary)

[¥]**UTI requiring culture:**

- Pregnant women, men, children
- Upper urinary tract infection
- Pyelonephritis
- Fever, systemic illness
- Recent instrumentation
- Hospital-acquired
- Renal transplant or Immunocompromised
- Known anatomical or functional urinary tract abnormality
- Recurrent infection & treatment failure

References: "Urinary tract infections (UTIs) – an overview of lower UTI management in adults". https://bpac.org.nz/2021/uti.aspx
"A pragmatic guide to asymptomatic bacteriuria and testing for urinary tract infections (UTIs) in people aged over 65 years" https://bpac.org.nz/BT/2015/July/guide.aspx
"bpac Primary Care Antibiotic Guide" https://bpac.org.nz/antibiotics/guide.aspx
IDSA 2025 Guideline Update on Complicated Urinary Tract Infections. https://www.idsociety.org/practice-guideline/complicated-urinary-tract-infections/

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