

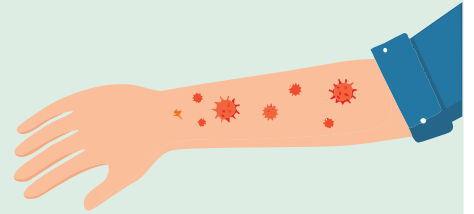
Fast Facts about UTIs



- Finding bacteria in the urine is common in older adults.
- Often, it doesn't lead to issues or require antibiotic treatment.
- When bacteria are present without infection symptoms, it's called asymptomatic bacteriuria.
- Asymptomatic bacteriuria is not harmful.



- Residents of long-term care homes often receive antibiotics for asymptomatic bacteriuria.
- However, antibiotics are not needed in these cases.



- Using antibiotics when not needed can cause harm.
- Possible harms include:
 - Side effects (e.g., rash)
 - Adverse drug interactions
 - C. difficile infection, which can cause severe diarrhea

Frequently Asked Questions ?

What are the signs of a possible urinary tract infection?

- Pain or burning when passing urine
- Difficulty urinating or frequent urge to urinate
- Fever
- Blood in the urine (less common)
- Pain in the side, lower stomach, or lower back

How will a possible urinary tract infection be managed?

- Collecting urine for laboratory testing
- Depending on the situation, you may:
 - Receive antibiotics immediately
 - Wait for urine test results
- Close monitoring during this period
- "Watchful waiting" is appropriate
- If a UTI is confirmed, antibiotics will be given

What are NOT signs of a urinary tract infection?

- Smelly or cloudy urine
- Changes in urine due to other medical problems
- Changes in urine due to certain foods or medications
- Disorientation or other behavioral changes (not always related to a UTI)

How can you help?

Our goal: Ensure families feel confident that residents will be actively monitored for suspected UTIs.

Encouragement: Continue to ask questions.

Support the program by: Using antibiotics only when necessary, as determined by your doctor or nurse practitioner.