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Dept/Site : General	Doc Ref: EPA-GP-002	Author: Dr C Tremlett
Revision: 3	Issued: 13.05.2022	Approval: Reenesh Parakash
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Eastern Pathology Alliance **NHS**

GUIDANCE AND ALGORITHM FOR DIAGNOSIS OF / APPROPRIATE SAMPLING FOR URINARY TRACT INFECTION IN ADULTS >65 YEARS WITHOUT A URINARY CATHETER

(For patients with indwelling urinary catheter please see separate guidance and algorithm regarding sampling and treatment)

Do not use urinalysis on urine samples from patients over 65 years of age to diagnose UTI in absence of clinical symptoms

Asymptomatic bacteruria is common in older patients and may cause a positive dipstick in a patient who does not have UTI.

Do not send urine for 'routine' culture

Samples cultured from patients without urinary tract symptoms may identify asymptomatic bacteruria for which antibiotics may be incorrectly prescribed.

Do not prescribe antibiotics to 'treat' bacterial growth from a urine in asymptomatic patients

Inappropriate antibiotic treatment of asymptomatic bacteruria selects for antimicrobial resistance and puts the patient at unnecessary risk of complications of antibiotic use **including C. difficile infection.**

Use the enclosed algorithm to guide when to sample and when to treat

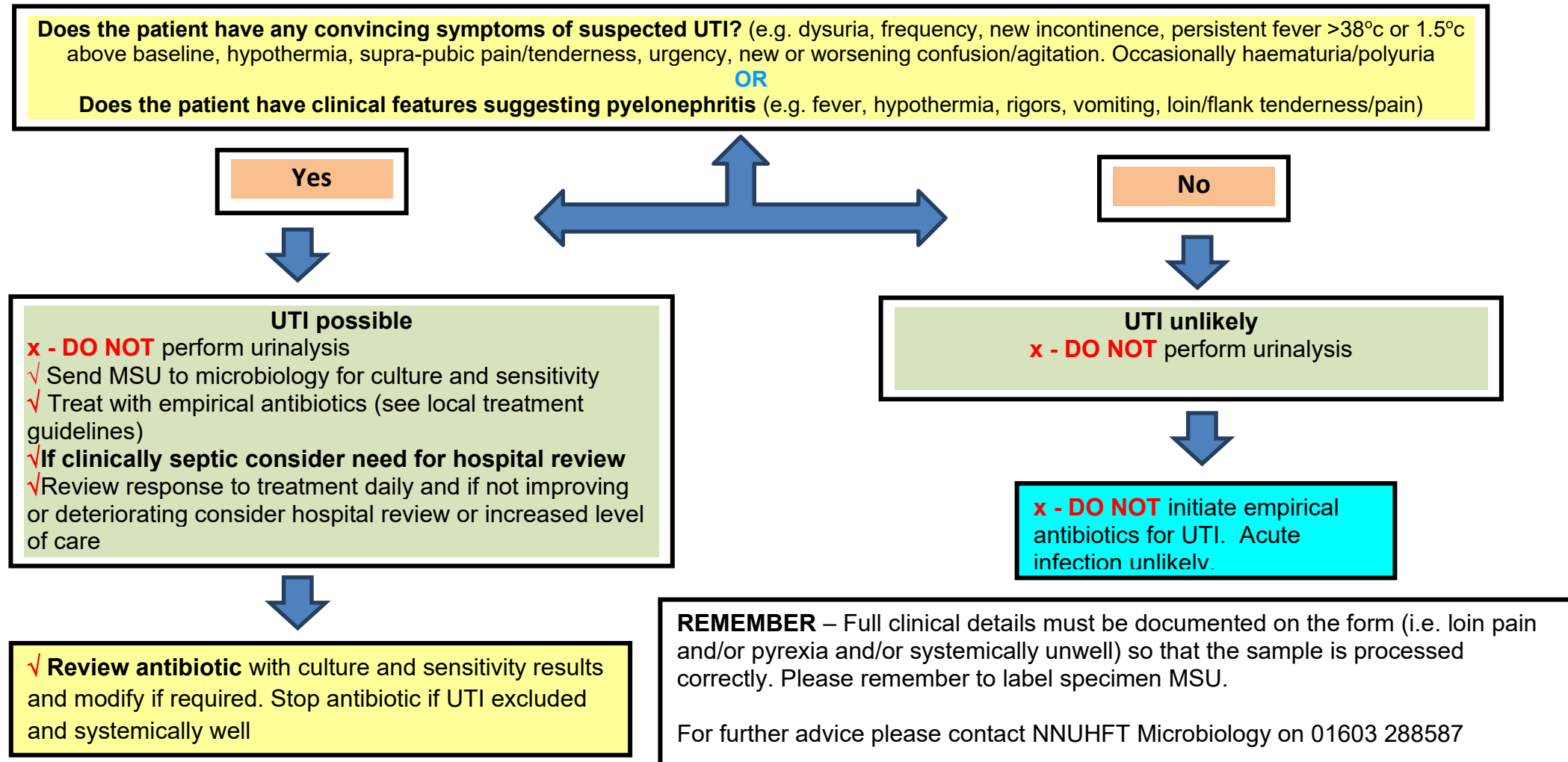
Only culture the urine if the patient has two or more signs of UTI – especially dysuria, fever >38°C, new incontinence. **If the patient is clinically septic or has features of pyelonephritis consider referral for hospital review and further investigation.**

When sending urine from a non-catheterised patient >65 years for culture, please indicate clinical signs and symptoms of infection on the form, and identify that the sample is an MSU.

The Microbiology Laboratory will report positive cultures from catheterised and non-catheterised patients differently, so it is important to know what sort of sample we are sent.

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Algorithm for diagnosis of Urinary Tract Infection in adults >65 years of age without a urinary catheter



Sources of Information

- Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- HPA Diagnosis of UTI – Quick reference guide for Primary Care
- SIGN guidelines – Management of suspected bacterial urinary tract infection in adults 2012