

RESOURCES FOR SUSPECTED URINARY TRACT INFECTION (UTI)

One of the most common reasons for calls to the Long-Term Care Initiative's after-hours on-call group is "suspected UTI". To help ensure our residents receive the most appropriate treatment, several practice guidelines and other documents are available on the LTCI website:

1. Choosing Wisely Canada: "Antibiotics for Urinary Tract Infections in Older People: When you need them - and when you don't"
https://vicsi-ltci.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/UTI-Practice-Statements_2021.pdf
2. Care of the Resident with a Suspected Urinary Tract Infection in Long-term Care
<https://vicsi-ltci.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/IH-LTC-Suspected-UTI-2019.pdf>
3. To help nurses prepare to call a medical provider: Long-term Care Initiative's UTI SBAR
<https://vicsi-ltci.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/UTI-SBAR-Apr2022-FINAL-DRAFT.pdf>
4. The Long-term Care Initiative's Urinary Concerns training module (a short video)
<https://vicsi-ltci.ca/after-hours-call-group/>

Some key points from the documents:

- Perform a clinical assessment, documenting the signs and symptoms of a UTI and looking for alternative explanations for change in clinical status
- Use nursing interventions including offering sufficient fluids, toileting regularly, analgesics as needed
- Don't use urine dipsticks to diagnose a UTI
- Avoid antibiotics unless the minimum criteria for a UTI are met
- If antibiotics are ordered, don't forget to reassess after a few days to check antibiotic sensitivity results and that the resident is improving
- Prior to calling a medical provider
 - consider what you think the problem is, narrow in on what is needed, and outline the rationale behind your thoughts
 - have available the resident's chart, MOST, and MAR, as well as any recent labs, and a list of contingency medications