

# Reduce Avoidable Hospitalizations Due to UTIs



A urinary tract infection (UTI) is a common infection that accounts for many infection-related hospitalizations. When signed by the physician or provider, our UTI protocol is an order for our nurse to collect a urine specimen when a patient exhibits clinical signs and symptoms of a UTI. Implementing this protocol can save time and decrease risk of hospitalization.

## UTI Protocol

- + Physician order to collect a urine specimen based on patient report or clinical assessment of common symptoms
- + Strongly encouraged for patients with an identified risk of developing UTI
- + Includes PRN visits to assess patient and collect urine specimen
- + Nurse provider education on proper hygiene and symptom management
- + Physicians may choose standard urine culture or molecular testing
- + Treatment is directed by the patient's medical provider based on test results

## Benefits of Molecular Testing

- + A polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing method that provides improved sensitivity
- + Results in 12-24 hours
- + Analyzes bacterial DNA to determine antimicrobial resistance
- + Unaffected by concurrent antibiotic use
- + Results include antimicrobial treatment recommendations
- + Sample collected by clean catch or a swab from adult brief or pad

## Common causes of UTI-related hospitalizations include:

- + Decreased mobility
- + Indwelling urinary catheter
- + Recent discontinuation of indwelling catheter
- + Intermittent or self-catheter use
- + History of recurrent UTIs
- + Recent UTI in past 14 days
- + Polypharmacy
- + Advancing age
- + History of diabetes, renal failure, Parkinson's Disease, dementia or stroke
- + Women over 70 years of age
- + Summer months

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