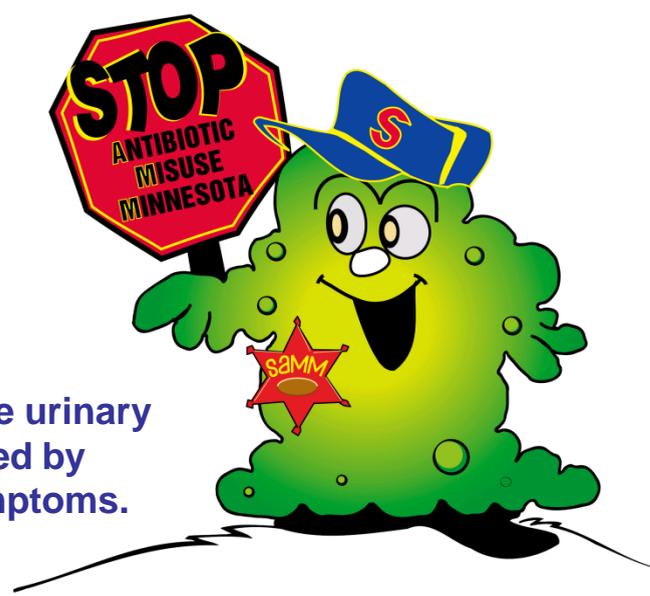


Urinary Tract Infections in Long-term Care Residents



A urinary tract infection (UTI) is an infection in the urinary tract (bladder, kidney, ureters) that is characterized by bacteria in the urine (bacteriuria) and clinical symptoms. Take the quiz and learn more about UTIs!

1. True or False: Catheter-associated urinary tract infections are the most common cause of bacteremia (bloodstream infection) in long-term care facilities.
2. True or False: Bacteriuria (bacteria in the urine) *always* indicates that the resident needs to be treated with antibiotics.
3. A catheter alone increases a resident's risk of a catheter-associated UTI. What other factors can further increase the risk of a UTI?
 - a. Duration of catheterization
 - b. Quality of catheter care
 - c. Resident factors like advanced age, debilitation, and immune status
 - d. All of the above
4. Yes or No: Does foul-smelling urine need to be treated with antibiotics?
5. Which of the following steps are necessary to prevent catheter-associated UTIs?
 - a. Clean hands immediately before & after touching the catheter or catheter site
 - b. Use as small a catheter as possible to promote good drainage & minimize urethral trauma
 - c. Secure indwelling urinary catheter tubing after insertion to prevent movement
 - d. All of the above
6. What is the most important way to prevent catheter-associated urinary tract infections?

(Answers on other side.)

Answers:

1. **TRUE.** Residents with an indwelling urinary catheter are 30 times more likely to develop bacteremia than residents without a chronic indwelling catheter. Nearly 100% of LTCF residents with an indwelling catheter have bacteria in their urine.
2. **FALSE.** Bacteria in the urine without clinical symptoms of UTI is very common and considered a benign condition among LTCF residents. It does not need to be treated with antibiotics. 98% of residents with bacteriuria do not have clinical symptoms of a UTI, and therefore do not need antibiotics.
3. **D.** Avoid unnecessary urinary catheterization and limit indwelling urinary catheter use when possible. Clean hands immediately before and after touching the catheter or catheter site.
4. **NO.** Foul-smelling urine without clinical symptoms of a UTI does not need to be treated with antibiotics. CDC's definition of a UTI does not include urine odor as a valid symptom of a UTI. Urine can be malodorous due to dehydration, diet, medication, or the presence of specific bacteria.
5. **D.** All of the above are important steps to prevent catheter-associated UTIs. Indwelling catheters should only be changed when obstructed or there has been a break in the closed drainage system.
6. **Get the catheters out!**

**Antibiotics are a crucial weapon in the fight
against disease. Help us keep them working.
Always let your doctor decide if you need an antibiotic.**



Minnesota Department of Health
Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Prevention, and Control Division
PO Box 64975, Saint Paul, MN 55164-0975
651-201-5414 or 1-877-676-5414 www.health.state.mn.us