

## Indications for Urine Culture:

### Urine cultures should be ordered only in the following patients:

- **Patients with signs/symptoms of a urinary tract infection:**
  - For example, dysuria, suprapubic pain/tenderness, urgency, frequency, or costovertebral angle pain/tenderness
- **Part of an evaluation of sepsis without a clear source (e.g. febrile neonate)**
- **Work up of patients with isolated fever or altered mental status (only if other foci of infection are not identified on history, on examination, or from other lab testing)**
- **Patients who may present with atypical UTI symptoms (only if other foci of infection are not identified on history, on examination, or from other lab testing)**
- **For bacteriuria screening in asymptomatic patients with the following underlying comorbidities:**
  - 1) Prior to urologic procedures
  - 2) Pregnant women
  - 3) Neutropenic

### Urine cultures should **NOT** be ordered for the following instances:

- Do **NOT** order solely based on concerns re: urine quality, such as change in the character of the urine (color, smell, sediments, turbidity)
- Do **NOT** have standing orders for urine culture in the absence of an appropriate indication (e.g. as part of standard fever work up)
- Do **NOT** repeat urine culture to document clearance of bacteriuria in the presence of symptomatic improvement
- In the absence of symptoms, screening urine cultures should **NOT** be ordered for:
  - 1) Non-pregnant women
  - 2) Patients with diabetes
  - 3) Elderly patients
  - 4) Patients with spinal cord injury
  - 5) Patients with an indwelling urinary catheter or who require chronic intermittent catheterization
  - 6) Renal transplant recipients

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## Urinalysis with Reflexive Culture:

Patients will have U/A and urine culture collected.

Urine cultures are processed if **ANY ONE** of the following are present:

- Small or greater leukocyte esterase
- Positive nitrites
- $\geq 5$  WBC

**For patients in which the ordering provider notes that the patient is pregnant, neutropenic, or undergoing GU procedure AND in children under 25 months of age, the urine culture will be run regardless of U/A findings.**