

Urinary tract infections in adults

Information for the public

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About this information

NICE quality standards help to improve key areas of health or social care so that people are offered the best care available.

This information explains the care and support described in the NICE quality standard for urinary tract infections in adults.

Urinary tract infections in adults

The quality standard for urinary tract infection in adults is made up of 7 statements that describe high-quality care for adults with urinary tract infection. These statements set out the quality of care you should receive.

1. Adults aged 65 years and over who have symptoms that are typical of a urinary tract infection have a full clinical assessment before a diagnosis of a urinary tract infection is made.
2. Adults with urinary catheters do not have urinary tract infections diagnosed by dipstick testing.
3. Men with symptoms of an upper urinary tract infection are referred to a specialist for urological tests.
4. Adults with a urinary tract infection that is not responding to initial antibiotic treatment have their urine tested to see if other antibiotics should be tried.

5. Adults with catheters and non-pregnant women who have bacteria in their urine but no symptoms of urinary tract infection are not prescribed antibiotics.

6. Adults with long-term indwelling catheters are not prescribed antibiotics to prevent urinary tract infection unless they have a history of recurrent or severe urinary tract infection.

7. Recurrent urinary tract infections are common and it is important that they are managed and prevented effectively.

Your care

Your health and social care team should explain any treatment, care or support you should be offered so that you can decide together what is best for you. NICE has also produced advice and quality standards on [improving the experience of care for adults using the NHS](#) which you might like to read.

We also have more information on the NICE website about [using health and social care services](#).

More information on urinary tract infections in adults

SIGN has produced guidance (advice) on [urinary tract infection in adults](#), which is accredited by NICE. The guidance was used to develop this quality standard.

Sources of advice and support for adults with urinary tract infections, their families and carers

- Alzheimer's Society, 0300 222 11 22, www.alzheimers.org.uk
- Bladder and Bowel Foundation, 0845 345 0165, www.bladderandbowelfoundation.org
- The Cystitis and Overactive Bladder Foundation, 0121 702 0820, www.cobfoundation.org
- MRSA Action UK, 07762741114, www.mrsaactionuk.net
- PromoCon, 0161 607 8219, www.disabledliving.co.uk/PromoCon

You can also go to [NHS Choices](#) for more information about health and social care.

NICE is not responsible for the quality or accuracy of any information or advice provided by these organisations.

A number of organisations who share NICE's commitment to improving quality in this area formally support this quality standard. They may also be able to provide advice and support. For a list of these organisations see the urinary tract infection in adults quality standard [overview](#).

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Accreditation

