

# Has your patient got signs and symptoms of a catheter associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI)?

**Diagnosis of a CAUTI must always involve assessing for clinical signs and symptoms compatible with a CAUTI.**

## Signs and symptoms include:

- Fever
- Rigors, shivering, shaking
- New onset or worsening confusion/delirium
- Malaise / lethargy with no other identified cause
- Back pain
- Pelvic discomfort/pain
- Acute haematuria



## Dip stick testing of urine must **NOT** be used to diagnose a CAUTI, because:

- Patients with a urinary catheter may have non-visible haematuria due to ongoing trauma of the catheter
- Patients with a urinary catheter are likely to have bacterial colonisation of their urine due to the presence of the catheter
- These can all be normal findings in a catheterised patient and in isolation does not indicate infection



## When to take a catheter sample of urine (CSU):

- A CSU should only be obtained when a diagnosis of CAUTI has been made
- Obtain the CSU before the patient commences antibiotics
- The CSU will help guide antimicrobial treatment but does not help in establishing the diagnosis
- Obtaining a CSU when there is no clinical evidence of a CAUTI may lead to a false positive result and unnecessary treatment with antibiotics

## How to obtain a CSU:

- Obtain the specimen aseptically via the drainage bag needle free sampling port
- Clean the sampling port with a 70% isopropyl alcohol swab and allow to dry
- CSUs may also be obtained aseptically during catheterisation
- The sample should normally be sent in a red-topped (boric acid containing) sterile container and filled to the line
- A false negative culture result can occur with a small urine volume

## Changing the catheter:

- Patients who have a diagnosis of a CAUTI should have their catheter changed with appropriate antibiotic cover\*
- Change the catheter after the patient has commenced antibiotics for the CAUTI



## References:

- Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust (2019) Urinary catheterisation: Adults and children (Urethral, Suprapubic and Intermittent) Policy and Procedures
- Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (2019) Guideline for antimicrobial prophylaxis during urinary catheterisation in adults
- Leeds CCG (2017) Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infection (CA-UTI) in Primary Care



Prescribing antibiotics when there is no clinical evidence of a CAUTI should not be done and may increase patient's multi-resistance to antibiotics.