

When to Contact a Physician for Antibiotics

Suspected Urinary Tract Infection (UTI)

Resident **WITH** indwelling catheter

The criteria are met to initiate antibiotics if **ONE** of the below are selected:

- Fever of 100°F (38°C) or repeated temperatures of 99°F (37°C)*
- New back or flank pain
- Acute pain
- Rigors (*shaking chills*)
- New dramatic change in mental status
- Hypotension (*significant change from baseline BP or a systolic BP <90*)

Resident **WITHOUT** indwelling catheter

The criteria are met if **ONE** of the three situations are met

- Situation 1:** Acute dysuria alone

OR

- Situation 2:** Single temperature of 100°F (38°C) **AND** at least **ONE** new or worsening of the following:
 - urgency
 - suprapubic pain
 - frequency
 - gross hematuria
 - back or flank pain
 - urinary incontinence

OR

- Situation 3:** No fever, but **TWO OR MORE** of the following symptoms:
 - urgency
 - suprapubic pain
 - frequency
 - gross hematuria
 - incontinence

Nurses: Please check box to indicate whether or not criteria are met

- Nursing home protocol criteria are met. Resident may require UA with C&S or an antibiotic.
- Nursing home protocol criteria are NOT met. The resident does NOT need an immediate prescription for an antibiotic, but may need additional observation.

*For residents that regularly run a lower temperature, use a temperature of 2°F (1°C) above the baseline as a definition of a fever.

Fever with Unknown Focus of Infection

Fever (>37.9°C [100°F] or a 1.5°C [2.4°F] increase above baseline temperature)

AND at least **ONE** of the following:

- Delirium (*sudden onset of confusion, disorientation, dramatic change in mental status*)
- Rigors (*shaking chills*)

NOTE: fever + mental status changes that do not meet delirium criteria (e.g. reduced functional activities, withdrawal, loss of appetite) need to be investigated but empiric antibiotics are not needed.



Source: Toolkit 3. Minimum Criteria for Common Infections Toolkit. (2016, October 17). Retrieved Nov. & dec., 2017, from <https://www.ahrq.gov/nhguide/toolkits/determine-whether-to-treat/toolkit3-minimum-criteria.html> and Minimum Criteria for Initiation of Antibiotics in Long-Term Care Residents. (2017, July 10). Retrieved Nov. & dec., 2017, from <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/dtopics/antibioticresistance/lrcabxcardposter.pdf>

Suspected Lower Respiratory Tract Infection

The criteria are met if **ONE** of the four situations are met:

Situation 1: Resident with a fever of 102°F (38.9°C) or higher and **ONE** of the following:

- Respiratory rate of >25 breaths per minute
- New or worsened cough
- New or increased sputum production
- O₂ saturation <94% on room air or a reduction in O₂ saturation of >3% from baseline

Situation 2: Resident with a fever of 100°F (37.9°C) and less than 102°F (38.9°C)

- Cough and at least **ONE** of the following:
 - Pulse >100
 - Delirium (*sudden onset of confusion, disorientation, dramatic change in mental status*)
 - Rigors (*shaking chills*)
 - Respiratory rate >25 breaths per minute

Situation 3: Afebrile resident with COPD and age >65

- New or increased cough with purulent sputum production

Situation 4: Afebrile resident without COPD and age >65

- New or increased cough with purulent sputum production and at least **ONE** of the following:
 - Respiratory rate >25
 - Delirium (*sudden onset of confusion, disorientation, dramatic change in mental status*)

Nurses: Please check box to indicate whether or not criteria are met

- Nursing home protocol criteria are met. The resident may have a lower respiratory tract infection and need a prescription for an antibiotic agent.
- Nursing home protocol criteria are NOT met. The resident does NOT need an immediate prescription for an antibiotic, but may need additional observation.

Suspected skin and soft tissue infection

The criteria are met to initiate antibiotics if **ONE** of situations below are met:

- Situation 1:** New or increasing pus at a wound, skin, or soft-tissue site

OR

- Situation 2:** At least **TWO** of the following:
 - Fever of 100°F (38°C) or repeated temperatures of 99°F (37°C)
 - redness
 - pain
 - warmth
 - swelling that is new or increasing

Nurses: Please check box to indicate whether or not criteria are met

- Nursing home protocol criteria are met. The resident may have a skin and soft tissue infection and need a prescription for an antibiotic agent.
- Nursing home protocol criteria are NOT met. The resident does NOT need an immediate prescription for an antibiotic, but may need additional observation.