Decision aid to guide management of patients/residents with fever defined as temperature >37.9°C or 1.5°C increase above baseline occurring on at least two occasions in last 12 hours. Hypothermia (low temperature of <36°C) may also indicate infection, especially those with comorbidities. Be alert to non-specific symptoms of infection such as abdominal pain, alteration of behaviour or loss of diabetes control.

Does the patient/resident have a urinary catheter?

YES

Does patient/resident have one or more of following symptoms?

- shaking chills (rigors)
- new costovertebral tenderness
- new onset delirium

NO

Does patient/resident have two or more of following symptoms?

- dysuria
- urgency
- frequency
- urinary incontinence
- shaking chills (rigors)
- flank or suprapubic pain
- frank haematuria
- new onset or worsening of pre-existing confusion/agitation

NO

Are there any symptoms suggestive of non-urinary infection?

YES

Respiratory - shortness of breath, cough or sputum production, new pleuritic chest pain
Gastrointestinal - nausea/vomiting, new abdominal pain, new onset diarrhoea
Skin/soft tissue - new redness, warmth, swelling, purulent drainage

NO

UTI unlikely but continue to monitor symptoms

UTI likely

- Assess if retention or sub-acute retention of urine is likely (e.g. blocked catheter or distended bladder)
- Do NOT use dipstick test in diagnosis of UTI in older people
- Obtain a sample for urine culture and send to Microbiology
- Start antibiotic therapy following local policy or as advised by Microbiology
- If patient has a urinary catheter, remove and replace it. Consider the ongoing need for a long term catheter in consultation with specialists
- Consider use of analgesia (paracetamol or ibuprofen) to relieve pain
- Consider admission to hospital if patient has fever with chills or new onset hypotension (low blood pressure)
- Review response to treatment daily and if no improvement of symptoms or deterioration, consider admission to hospital or an increased level of care.

UTI unlikely but continue to monitor symptoms

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