

TREATING YOUR INFECTION – URINARY TRACT INFECTION (UTI)

For women under 65 years with suspected lower urinary tract infections (UTIs) or lower recurrent UTIs (cystitis or urethritis)

Possible urinary signs & symptoms	The outcome	Recommended care	COVID-19 specific advice
Key signs/symptoms: Dysuria: Burning pain when passing urine (wee) New nocturia: Needing to pass urine in the night Cloudy urine: Visible cloudy colour when passing urine Other signs/symptoms to consider: Frequency: Passing urine more often than usual Urgency: Feeling the need to pass urine immediately Haematuria: Blood in your urine Suprapubic pain: Pain in your lower tummy Other things to consider: Recent sexual history - Inflammation due to sexual activity can feel similar to the symptoms of a UTI - Some sexually transmitted infections (STIs) can have symptoms similar to those of a UTI Changes during menopause - Some changes during the menopause can have symptoms similar to those of a UTI	Non-pregnant women: ☐ If none or only one of: dysuria, new nocturia, cloudy urine; AND/OR vaginal discharge → - UTI much less likely - You may need a urine test to check for a UTI - Antibiotics less likely to help - Usually lasts 5 to 7 days ☐ If 2 or more of: dysuria, new nocturia, cloudy urine; OR bacteria detected in urine; AND NO vaginal discharge → - UTI more likely; antibiotics should help - You should start to improve within 48 hours - Symptoms usually last 3 days Pregnant women: Always request urine culture ☐ If suspected UTI →	☐ Self-care and pain relief. Symptoms may get better on their own ☐ Self-care and pain relief Rest Clear fluids Simple painkillers ie paracetamol If no better in 3 days ring your GP for advice. ☐ Immediate antibiotic prescription plus self-care	Common symptoms of COVID-19 to look out for are: - A loss of, or change to your sense of smell or taste - A high temperature - A new continuous cough • If you have any of these symptoms and think you may have a UTI please do not ignore the UTI symptoms. • Book a COVID-19 test and self-isolate for 10 days or until you get a negative test result (www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) AND • Book a remote / online GP appointment to discuss your potential UTI and explain that you have also booked a COVID-19 test. Follow the latest advice on COVID-19 at www.gov.uk/coronavirus and www.nhs.uk

Self-care to help yourself get better more quickly	Options to help prevent a UTI	Antibiotic resistance	When should you get help? Contact your GP practice or contact NHS
- Drink enough fluids to stop you feeling thirsty. Aim to drink 6 to 8 glasses - Avoid too much alcohol, fizzy drinks or caffeine that can irritate your bladder - Take paracetamol or ibuprofen at regular intervals for pain relief, if you have had no previous side effects - There is currently no evidence to support taking cranberry products or cystitis sachets to improve your symptoms - Consider the risk factors in the 'Options to help prevent UTI' column to reduce future UTIs	It may help you to consider these risk factors: Stop bacteria spreading from your bowel into your bladder. Wipe from front (vagina) to back (bottom) after using the toilet. Avoid waiting to pass urine. Pass urine as soon as you need to. - Go for a wee after having sex to flush out any bacteria that may be near the opening to the urethra. Wash the external vagina area with water before and after sex to wash away any bacteria that may be near the opening to the urethra. Drink enough fluids to make sure you wee regularly throughout the day, especially during hot weather.. If you have a recurrent UTI, the following may help Cranberry products and D-mannose: There is some evidence to say that these work to help prevent recurrent UTI After the menopause: Topical hormonal treatment may help; for example, vaginal pessaries. - Antibiotics at night or after sex may be considered	Antibiotics can be lifesaving. But antibiotics are not always needed for urinary symptoms. ↓ Antibiotics taken by mouth, for any reason, affect our gut bacteria making some resistant. ↓ This may make future UTI more difficult to treat ↓ Common side effects to taking antibiotics include thrush, rashes, vomiting and diarrhoea. Seek medical advice if you are worried. ↓ Keep antibiotics working; only take them when advised by a health professional. This way they are more likely to work for a future UTI.	The following symptoms are possible signs of serious infection and should be assessed urgently. Phone for advice if you are not sure how urgent the symptoms are. - You have shivering, chills and muscle pain - You feel confused, or are very drowsy - You have not passed urine all day - You are vomiting - You see blood in your urine - Your temperature is above 38°C* or less than 36°C. - You have kidney pain in your back just under the ribs - Your symptoms get worse - Your symptoms are not starting to improve within 48 hours of taking antibiotics