## **Valor Health Antimicrobial Stewardship**

# Asymptomatic Bacteriuria (ASB)

#### What is Asymptomatic Bacteriuria (ASB)?

Asymptomatic bacteriuria refers to the isolation of bacteria in urine culture from a patient without signs or symptoms of Urinary Tract Infection (UTI). A positive urine culture result (with or without pyuria) alone does not meet criteria for initiation of antibiotics according to infectious diseases guidelines.

#### Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) Symptoms

- Urgency
- Rigors
- Frequency
- Dysuria
- Suprapubic pain or tenderness
- Flank pain
- Fever (>38°C) without other explanation
- Sepsis

### What are <u>NOT</u> symptoms of a UTI?

The following symptoms on their own are <u>not</u> indicative of a UTI. Please proceed with caution if none of the symptoms listed above are present.

- Pyuria White Blood Cells (WBCs) in urine
- Cloudy urine / Sediment in urine
- Dark urine / Change in urine color
- Odorous urine / Change in urine odor
- Falls / Dizziness
- Altered Behavior / Delirium
  - $\Rightarrow$  Consider other delirium causes:
    - Pain
    - Infection
    - Constipation
    - Dehydration
    - Medication
    - Environment

#### Who should be treated for ASB?

- Pregnant women
- Patients undergoing an invasive urinary tract procedure
- Renal transplant recipients less than 1 month post-transplant

#### What's the risk in treating ASB?

Treatment of ASB in patients (not listed above) may lead to:

- Antibiotic resistance
- C. difficile infections
- Antibiotic side effects
- Urinary Tract Infection
- Missing the real, true diagnosis!

### How YOU Can Help!

# 1. Remember it is hard to ignore a positive culture — send urinalysis specimens and urine cultures to the laboratory wisely!

- 2. Consider other causes for delirium.
- 3. Ensure good specimen collection! Specimens should be clean catch urine or cath urine from a cleansed sample port. Specimens from cath bags or contaminated voided urine should never be sent for urinalysis or culture!

Asymptomatic bacteriuria. AHRQ. https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/antibiotic-use/best-practices/ASB-onepage.pdf. Accessed February 10, 2023.

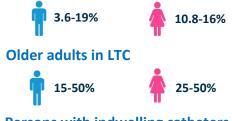
Fekete T. Asymptomatic bacteriuria in adults. UpToDate. https://www.uptodate.com/contents/asymptomatic-bacteriuria-inadults. Published June 29, 2021. Accessed February 10, 2023.



## How common is ASB?

Many older patients have bacteria in urine without symptoms. It is much more common than UTI.

#### **Community-dwelling > 70 years**



#### Persons with indwelling catheters

98% with long-term use 3-8% per day with short term use