

Urinary tract infection includes only symptomatic urinary tract infections. Surveillance for asymptomatic bacteriuria (defined as the presence of a positive urine culture in the absence of new signs and symptoms of urinary tract infection) is not recommended, as this represents baseline status for many clients.

### Symptomatic Urinary Tract Infection

One of the following criteria must be met:

- ◆ The client does not have an indwelling urinary catheter and has at least three of the following signs and symptoms:
  - Fever >38°C or chills.
  - New or increased burning pain on urination, frequency or urgency.
  - New flank or suprapubic pain or tenderness.
  - Worsening of mental or functional status.
  - Change in character of urine\*  
\*Change in character may be clinical [i.e. new bloody urine, foul smell, or amount of sediment] or as reported by the laboratory [new pyuria or microscopic hematuria]. For laboratory changes, this means that a previous urinalysis must have been negative.
  
- ◆ The client has an indwelling catheter and has at least two of the following signs or symptoms:
  - Fever >38°C or chills.
  - New flank or suprapubic pain or tenderness.
  - Change in character of urine (see above).
  - Worsening of mental or functional status.

**NOTE** Because the most common occult infectious source of fever in catheterized clients is the urinary tract, the combination of fever and worsening mental or functional status in such clients meets the criteria for a urinary tract infection.

Care should be taken to rule out other causes of these symptoms. If a catheterized client with only fever and worsening mental or functional status meets criteria for infection at another site other than urinary tract, only the diagnosis of infection at this other site should be made.

**NOTE:** It should be noted that urine culture results are included in the criteria. However if an appropriately collected and processed urine specimen was sent and if the client was not taking antibiotics at the time, then the culture must be reported as either positive or contaminated.