

DATE:	2022 April 4
TO:	Ordering Providers at ConnectCare-live Sites
FROM:	APL and DynaLIFE Microbiology, Appropriateness and Stewardship in Asymptomatic Bacteriuria Initiative
RE:	Mandatory entry of clinical indication in ConnectCare/Epic Urine Culture orders

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Effective **April 11, 2022** entry of a clinical indication when ordering a urine culture will be mandatory in the Epic environment at sites on ConnectCare.

Background

- Urine culture overutilization is a global problem that results in wasted resources, unnecessary antibiotic use with associated patient harms (allergic reactions, toxicity, *Clostridioides (Clostridium) difficile* infection) and development of antimicrobial resistance.
 - 20-80% of urine culture orders in Alberta are unnecessary/inappropriate depending on setting.
- Requiring clinical rationale for ConnectCare Urine Culture orders is one part of a provincial effort aimed at reducing unnecessary urine culture ordering and treatment of asymptomatic bacteriuria.
 - This initiative aligns with best available evidence and is supported by Alberta Health Services, Choosing Wisely Alberta, the Alberta Medical Association Physician Learning Program, Alberta Precision Laboratories and DynaLIFE Medical Laboratories.

How this will impact you

- Selection of one of the appropriate indications for urine culture orders in the 'Indications' section will be required before orders can be completed:

The screenshot shows a web-based ordering interface for a 'Urine Culture, Routine -- Urine, Midstream' test. The interface includes a header with 'Accept' and 'Cancel' buttons, and a 'New Orders' sidebar on the right. The main form contains the following fields and options:

- Process Instructions:** Do NOT order urine culture without an appropriate indication. Unnecessary testing and treatment of asymptomatic bacteriuria may lead to harm. Evidence-based resources and tools on appropriate ordering are available at www.ahs.ca/asab.
- Reference Links:** APL Guide to Lab Services, DynaLIFE Guide to Lab Services, AHS Appropriate Ordering Resources.
- Frequency:** Once (selected)
- Starting:** 10/3/2022 (Today selected), Tomorrow, At: 0906
- First Occurrence:** Today 0906
- Specimen Type:** Urine
- Specimen Source:** Urine, Midstream (selected), Catheter, In/Out, Catheter, Indwelling
- Suspected Organism:** Add
- Indications (highlighted in red):**
 - Suspect sepsis/pyelonephritis
 - Lower UTI/cystitis symptoms or signs
 - Suspect UTI in MS or neurogenic bladder patient
 - Asymptomatic: pregnant
 - Asymptomatic: prior to invasive urologic procedure
 - Asymptomatic: <1 month post renal transplant
 - Other
- Antibiotics in use:** (Empty field)



- If reasons for ordering fall outside of the provided options, select 'Other' in the indications section and enter the reason for ordering as free text in the 'Other Indications details' field:

Indications ⓘ

Suspect sepsis/pyelonephritis Lower UTI/cystitis symptoms or signs Suspect UTI in MS or neurogenic bladder patient

Asymptomatic: pregnant Asymptomatic: prior to invasive urologic procedure

Asymptomatic: < 1 month post renal transplant **Other**

Other Indications details

Action Required

- **Do not order a urine culture without an appropriate indication.**
- See the Appropriateness and Stewardship in Asymptomatic Bacteriuria website (www.ahs.ca/asab) for further guidance and resources on appropriate urine culture ordering and treatment of asymptomatic bacteriuria.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to

- Dr. Michael Groeschel, MD, Medical Microbiology, michael.groeschel@albertaprecisionlabs.ca
- Dr. Bob Verity, *DynaLIFE* Interim Microbiology Director, at Tel: (780) 451-3702 ext. 8157 or the *DynaLIFE* Microbiologist On-Call at Tel: (780) 451-3702

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by

- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Interim Chief Medical Laboratory Officer, Alberta Precision Laboratories
- Dr. Erene Farag, Interim Medical Director, *DynaLIFE* Medical Laboratories