

**Woman, Child and Family Service – Paediatrics**  
**Tauranga Hospital**  
Cameron Road Private Bag 12024  
Tauranga NEW ZEALAND

Re: Urinary tract infections

Thank you for your recent letter requesting advice for urinary tract infections.

A clean urine specimen in the presence of symptoms is required to make a diagnosis of a urinary tract infection. Bag specimens are often contaminated and are not reliable as a means of diagnosing infection. We recommend clean catch or mid stream samples in the first instance.

Children under 3 months old should always be referred for acute assessment for IV antibiotics, and admission should be considered for children under 6 months of age and those who are unwell or not tolerating oral antibiotics, or who have known anatomic abnormality.

A renal ultrasound is recommended for children under 12 months of age with first febrile UTI, children with severe illness, or recurrent febrile UTIs. Asymptomatic bacteriuria does not require renal imaging.

We suggest reviewing history of perineal hygiene, toileting patterns, and assessing for constipation and offering advice as appropriate. There are excellent parent handouts available on the Royal Children's Hospital website for these conditions. The child's blood pressure also needs to be measured.

We would be happy to consider referrals for children with abnormal renal imaging, children with recurrent UTIs (defined as 2 or more febrile UTIs, 1 febrile UTI + 1 or more episodes of cystitis, or 3 or more episodes of cystitis), or those admitted with atypical UTI.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have concerns.

Ngā mihi

Yours Sincerely

*(electronically reviewed)*

Paediatric Team