Urinary Tract Infections (UTI)

- Don’t assume that altered mental status is due to a UTI as you are at risk of missing the true underlying cause of the confusion.
- Asymptomatic bacteriuria is common and there is no benefit to treating it.
- Unless a patient is unstable, then it is best to wait for urine culture prior to starting antibiotics.
- 5 days of antibiotics is usually sufficient to treat a urinary tract infection.
  - Use the highest appropriate dose with shortest course.
  - Fluoroquinolones should not be used as first line treatment for UTI
  - Nitrofurantoin can be safely used if CrCl>30 but is still not best option for resistant organisms as it is bacteriostatic.
- There is no role for prophylactic antibiotics even for patients with recurrent UTIs.
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