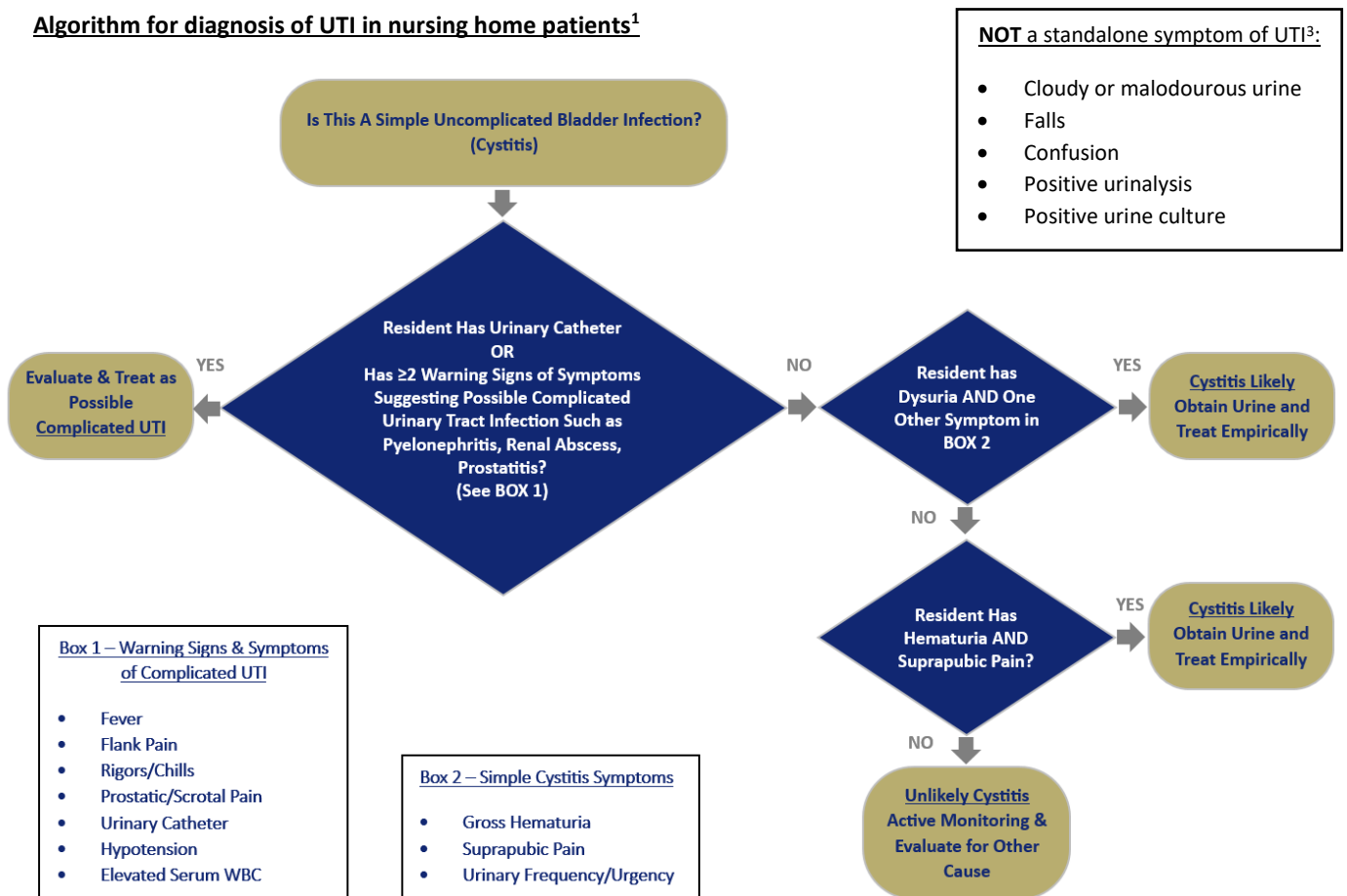


## NOT a UTI in a Nursing Home Resident

Urinary tract infections (UTIs) are the most common infection encountered in nursing home patients.<sup>1</sup> It can be challenging to distinguish a UTI from asymptomatic bacteriuria which does not require antibiotic treatment. Unnecessary antibiotic prescriptions are common in nursing home patients. Although robust evidence for diagnosis is lacking, expert consensus guidelines have been developed to aid clinicians in making the correct diagnosis and the below pathway is one that has been proposed by The Society of Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine (AMDA).<sup>2</sup> Notably, dysuria is not sufficient alone for the diagnosis of cystitis.<sup>1</sup>

### Algorithm for diagnosis of UTI in nursing home patients<sup>1</sup>



**Key Take-away:** A UTI is diagnosed based on genitourinary and/or systemic signs of infection in conjunction with urinary tests. Antibiotics are **NOT** indicated based solely on urine appearance or odor, cognitive or physical impairment, or positive urine tests. Over-diagnosis can lead to unnecessary antibiotic treatment and therefore harm with no benefit.

### References:

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