NEW URINE CULTURE PANEL
FOR ADULT INPATIENT

WHAT IS NEW?

This order panel will provide guidance around ordering tests for infection in the urine.

Within the order panel, ordering a UA/urine culture requires selecting an indication.

WHY THE CHANGE?





Foley catheters often have harmless bacteria present, which urine tests can detect.



Treating non-infectious bacteria with antibiotics can lead to antibiotic resistance.



Only perform urine cultures when there are clear symptoms of a UTI.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR URINE TESTING

INDICATIONS

- New signs or symptoms of UTI:
  - New burning
  - Urinary urgency
  - Pelvic or suprapubic discomfort
  - Flank pain
- Sepsis without known source
- Unexplained persistent fever
- Increased spasticity and/or autonomic dysreflexia in patients with spinal cord injury

NOT INDICATIONS

- Encephalopathy without urinary symptoms or sepsis
- Cloudy and/or malodorous urine or increased sediment



UCSF Recommendation:
Foley catheters that have been in place for at least 7 days should be exchanged BEFORE a urine sample is sent if clinically feasible.

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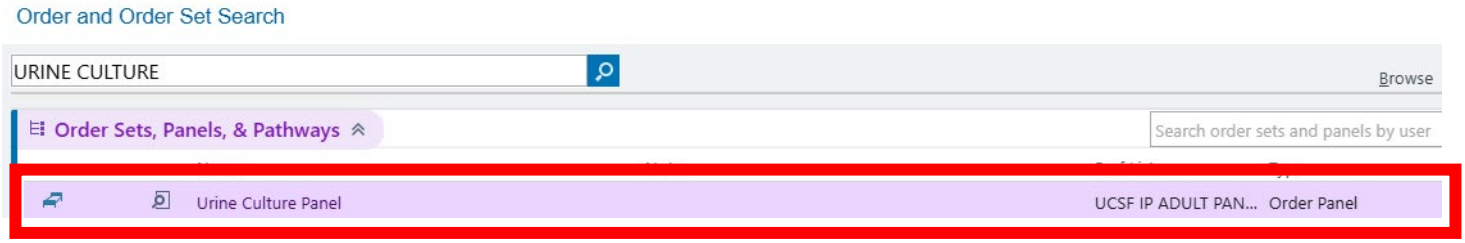
Re: Urine Culture Order Panel
To: UCSF Adult and Pediatric Inpatient Providers (West Bay)
12.16.2025

Starting on December 16, 2025, all inpatient urine cultures will be ordered through a new unified "**Urine Culture Panel**." This will be the **only** way to order a urine culture on an inpatient.

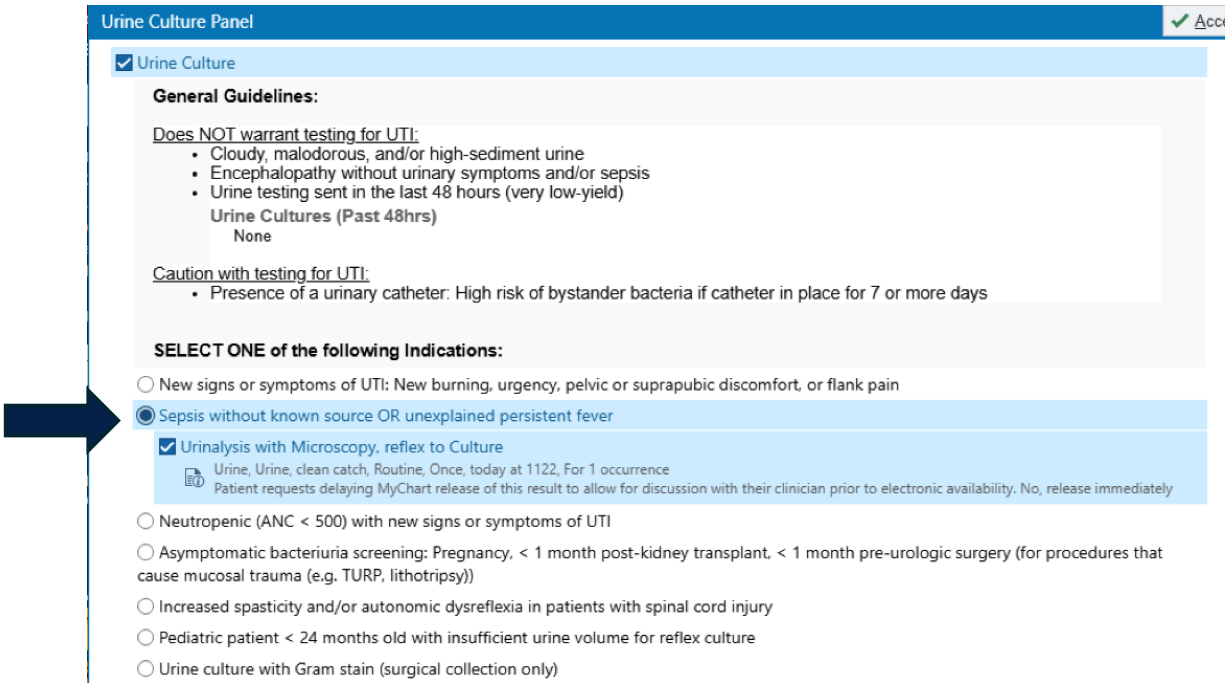
The aim of the new order panel is to help clinicians select appropriate testing for their patient and to avoid unnecessary urine tests.

The panel is the result of a collaboration between many stakeholders UCSF Health-wide, including Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Prevention and the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program.

All prior synonyms will lead to this panel, including "urinalysis" and "urine culture."



Select an indication to see the pre-selected ordering options, such as urinalysis with reflex to urine culture or urinalysis with automatic urine culture (depending on patient population).



Last updated 12/2025.
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UCSF Health

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Patients with indwelling urinary (Foley) catheters

You'll also see options for the management of a urinary catheter If the patient has one. Because catheters can rapidly become colonized by bacteria, urine specimens from catheters in place for at least a week can be misleading. Consider removing or exchanging the patient's urinary catheter, if clinically appropriate. Testing from the catheter will remain an option for patients in whom catheter exchange or removal is not feasible.

