

### **RED FLAGS**

#### **URINALYSIS**

- Haematuria in the absence of infection investigate following national guidelines.
- An untreated urinary tract infection (UTI) can cause SEPSIS.
- For those with recurrent UTI ensure a bladder scan is carried out.

### FREQUENCY AND/OR URGENCY

• Urinary frequency and/or urgency can occur in women as a symptom of ovarian cancer. If in any doubt, refer the patient to their GP for further investigation.

#### **OVERFLOW URINARY INCONTINENCE**

- Ensure men are screened to exclude prostate cancer
- Risk of ascending infection if the bladder is not fully emptying
- The sudden inability to pass urine, resulting in abdominal pain and distress is called acute urinary retention and is a medical emergency

#### **FUNCTIONAL URINARY INCONTINENCE**

- Identify treatable underlying symptoms
- New onset confusion could indicate SEPSIS. Ensure use of the NEWS2 scoring system.

#### COVID-19

Follow local safety procedures when carrying out this assessment and discuss any concerns with your local bladder and bowel service. Visit: www.rcn.org.uk/covid-19 for more information

# STRESS URINARY INCONTINENCE (SUI)

Contributing factors may include:

- Pregnancy and childbirth however nulliparous women can suffer SUI
- Constipation
- Obesity
- Cough
- Menopause
- Side-effects of medication
- Surgery

#### TREATMENT FOR SUI

- Pelvic floor muscle training (PFMT), ideally following specialist nurse / physiotherapist assessment (for men and women)
- Use the 'Knack'
- Prevent / treat constipation
- Advice on weight loss if BMI >30kg/m2
- Smoking cessation advice if indicated
- Possible oestrogen for vaginal symptoms post- menopause
- Review current medication

### URGENCY URINARY INCONTINENCE (UUI

Contributing factors may include:

- Urinary tract infection (UTI)
- Local bladder pathology
- Fluid intake and type
- Side-effects of medication
- Disease affecting the nervous system
- Menopause
- Reduced mobility and an unsympathetic environment for toileting
- Obesity
- Anxiety

#### TREATMENT FOR UUI

- Exclude urinary tract infection (UTI)
- Modify low or high fluid intake and discuss effects of caffeine on the bladder
- Review current medication
- Refer if neurological symptoms
- Consider oestrogen replacement
- Improve mobility and environment
- Advice on weight loss if BMI >30kg/m2
- PFMT (men and women)
- Bladder training

## **OVERFLOW URINARY INCONTINENCE (OUI)**

Contributing factors may include:

- Enlarged prostate gland in men
- Severe prolapse in women
- Urethral stricture or stenosis
- Pressure from faecal impaction

#### Underactive detrusor:

- Neurological conditions
- Detrusor sphincter dyssynergia
- Following: childbirth; removal of an indwelling catheter
- Sudden immobility
- Side effects of medication

### TREATMENT FOR OUI

- Review current medication

  Obstruction to the bladder out
- Exclude faecal impaction as a factor
- Enlarged prostate gland men may be referred to the Urologist
- Medication may be used to improve urine flow
- Severe prolapse in women refer to specialist for assessment
- Urethral stricture or stenosis refer to Urologist

#### Underactive detrusor

- Investigate for underlying cause
- Management may include intermittent self-catheterisation

# FUNCTIONAL URINARY INCONTINENCE (FUI)

Contributing factors may include:

- Severe physical disability
- Impaired manual dexterity
- Communication problems
- Mental health problems
- Cognitive impairment
- Learning difficulties
- Acute confusion
- An environment unsympathetic to individual toileting needs

#### TREATMENT FOR FUI

- Assess and treat any underlying bladder dysfunction
- Improve underlying disabilities and improve the environment where possible. Involve the Occupational Therapist and/or Physiotherapist
- Plan a prompted, timed, individual toileting programme

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MORE DETAILED INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT: WWW.CONTINENCEASSESSMENT.CO.UK

## MIXED URINARY INCONTINENCE

This is the complaints of both stress and urgency urinary incontinence in the same individual. Check the contributing factors for both SUI and UUI and formulate a treatment plan with the patient.