

# Urinary Tract Infection in Children

## Patient information

**You have been given this information leaflet because your child has been diagnosed with a urinary tract infection.**

A urine infection is caused by bacteria in the urine. These usually come from the bacteria that live in the bowel. Urine infections in children under age 5 years old are a common illness.

### Symptoms of a urine infection:

These may vary depending on the age of your child but include the following

- High temperature
- Vomiting or poor feeding
- Abdominal pain
- Generally unwell and lethargic
- Offensive smelling or cloudy urine
- Pain when passing urine or unexpected bed wetting

### Investigation of a urine infection

A sample of urine will be tested for the presence of bacteria in the department. A sample may also be sent for further testing with a result obtained in 48 hours. If this is the case either the department or you GP will contact you with the result.

If your child is under 6 months they will undergo further investigation with an ultrasound scan of the kidneys in 6 weeks. Other investigations may be organised by a paediatric specialist if indicated.

### Treatment of a urine infection

- Antibiotics may be given for 3 to 10 days.
- **Increase the amount of drinks your child has.**
- **If breast fed, continue to do so.**
- If your child is vomiting, then give smaller feeds more frequently.
- **If your child has a temperature, you can give paracetamol and/or ibuprofen. Please check the medication label prior to giving to your child.**

Emergency Department  
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**Seek immediate medical advice if any of the following occur:**

- Unusually sleepy.
- Unable to take oral fluids due to vomiting.
- Your child has not drunk anything all day or not passed urine.
- Your child does not improve within the following 48 hours.

## **Further Information**

For further advice and information about your condition:

Please choose from the following:

- 'NHS Patient Choices' website: [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)
- 'Making Lives Better' patient website: [www.patient.info](http://www.patient.info)
- Telephone NHS 111
- Contact your General Practitioner

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## **Contact details:**

- The James Cook University Hospital: 01642 850850  
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