



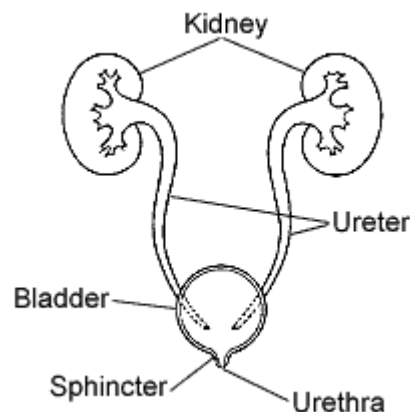
---

*Information for You from Your Health Care Team*

## URINARY TRACT INFECTION IN CHILDREN

### What is it?

Your urinary tract is made up of the bladder, kidney and ureters. The kidneys are bean-shaped organs that remove unwanted chemicals and waste from the blood. These wastes are turned into urine by the kidneys. The kidneys are attached to the bladder by little tubes called ureters. Urine travels down the ureters and into the bladder. The bladder is a hollow organ that holds urine. When you are ready to pass urine, it travels through the urethra and out of the body.



A urinary tract infection (UTI) is an infection of the bladder, kidneys, or urethra. When the infection is in the bladder, it is called cystitis. Urinary tract infections are more common in girls because their urinary tract is shorter. Your child may get a UTI more than once. Some people with UTIs do not have symptoms. If a UTI is not treated for months or years, the infection could hurt the kidneys.

### What causes UTIs?

Germ called bacteria cause UTIs. The bacteria can infect the urethra, bladder, or kidneys. Your child may get a UTI if he/she does not pass urine when feeling the need. If your child is a girl, she could get a UTI if she wipes her bottom from back to front. This can cause the germs to get into the urinary tract opening. Something blocking a tube in the urinary tract can also cause UTIs.

## What are signs of a UTI?

Call your doctor if your child has any of these signs.

- Needing to pass urine often.
- Pain or burning feeling when urinating.
- Passing little or no urine.
- Dribbling or leaking urine.
- Smelly urine or urine that is pink or red.
- A fever or mid-back or side pain.
- Upset stomach or throwing-up.

## What can I do?

- Your child should pass urine when he/she gets the first need to. **Do not hold the urine in.**
- Your child may need to take medicine to help kill the bacteria.
- Your caregiver may want you to give your child medicine for the fever or pain.
- Your child should drink plenty of liquids to keep the urine a light yellow color. This will help to wash the bacteria out.

