New: DICON/DASON Toolkit for Assessing Urine Testing

Asymptomatic bacteriuria (ASB) is a common finding in many populations (elderly patients, catheterized patients). ASB is defined as the presence of bacteria in urinalysis or urine cultures in a patient without urinary tract symptoms (dysuria, urgency, frequency, suprapubic pain, flank pain). More than 80% of ASBs are erroneously labeled as urinary tract infections and treated with antibiotics, even though Infectious Diseases Society of America guidelines discourage ASB treatment in most populations.

We are excited to launch the new DICON/DASON toolkit for assessing urine testing! This toolkit includes

- Comprehensive survey of current reflex urine testing practices across 51 DICON/DASON facilities
- Tool to assess the effectiveness of current reflex practices using your local data and predict the impact of potential changes to reflex culturing practices at your institution
- Diagnostic stewardship algorithm to help promote appropriate urine culturing practices within your facility (see attached)

DICON does not promote the indiscriminate use of reflex urine cultures (RUC), and cautions that RUC may only be useful in some settings based on local data (which can be determined by using the RUC analytical tool). This toolkit also discusses other key diagnostic stewardship interventions surrounding urine testing, such as appropriate ordering (through the use of a diagnostic algorithm), collection optimization, and reporting interventions. Interventions targeting one or more of these components of urine testing may decrease unnecessary urine cultures and reduce treatment of ASB.

Link to the urine testing toolkit: https://dicon.medicine.duke.edu/urine-testing-toolkit
Link to urine testing algorithm: https://dicon.medicine.duke.edu/sites/dicon.medicine.duke.edu/files/diagnostic_algorithm.pdf

NOTE: Please engage your DICON liaison for assistance implementing this toolkit.