

**TO: New Mexico Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee**

**FROM: American Association of Clinical Urologists and American Urological Association**

**RE: OPPOSE Senate Bill 92**

**DATE: January 27, 2023**

The American Association of Clinical Urologists (AACU) and American Urological Association (AUA) are the leading professional organizations for the specialty of urology, a branch of medicine focusing on conditions affecting the urinary-tract system and male reproductive organs. The AACU and AUA represent the interests of more than 21,000 urologists nationwide.

The AACU and AUA oppose Senate Bill 92, which would allow a pharmacist to order, test, screen, and treat many health conditions, including urinary tract infections (UTIs).

The diagnosis of UTI can be extremely nuanced and is one of the most erroneously diagnosed conditions for which urologists are consulted. Voided urine specimens are subject to contamination and the accurate diagnosis of UTI often requires a catheterized urine specimen for women. Increasing evidence shows urine is not sterile, so many times urine tests can show bacteria, but this test result does not necessarily explain the symptoms. Post-menopausal women can have UTI symptoms due to lack of estrogen, and these symptoms need to be treated with estrogen creams, not antibiotics.

Overall, antibiotic resistance is a **MASSIVE** concern. UTI is the one of biggest source of antibiotic resistance because patients are prescribed antibiotics inappropriately. AUA guidelines recommend treating UTIs based on a culture, using a hospital-based or local antibiogram to select an appropriate antibiotic. Because many UTIs will resolve on their own with behavior modifications, the guidelines stress things like a physical exam and medical history to ensure there are symptoms necessitating antibiotic treatment. Physicians possess the appropriate knowledge from their extensive training and experience, as well as the tools to responsibly prescribe antibiotics without adding to the ongoing issue of resistance.



American  
Urological  
Association