


Preventing Urinary Tract Infections

Four components of care recommended by IHI for all patients to prevent or reduce the risk of Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infection include:

- Avoid unnecessary urinary catheters
- Insert urinary catheters using aseptic technique
- Maintain urinary catheters per policy
- Review urinary catheter necessity daily and remove promptly

A Foley catheter maintenance card has been developed for the nursing Kardex as a daily check list. The nurses will send a urine specimen to the lab for analysis at the time of insertion to determine and document if a patient has a urinary tract infection prior to the insertion of the Foley catheter. Urinary tract infections following insertion of a Foley catheter are considered a never event and will not be reimbursed. A bright yellow sticker has been developed to document the physician's review of urinary catheter necessity on a daily basis.

 **Sutter Medical Center
of Santa Rosa**
A Sutter Health Affiliate

Foley Catheter Care

Review urinary catheter necessity daily.

Discontinue foley catheter today.

Patient's condition warrants continued foley catheter.

Date: _____ Time: _____ TORB: _____ R.N./Physician: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ Physician signature: _____

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Additionally, a bladder scanner selected after a trial by the nursing staff has been purchased. The purpose is to prevent unnecessary urinary catheterization and to reduce hospital acquired urinary tract infections.

Studies have shown that 40% of all Hospital Acquired Infections are Urinary Tract Infections. At least 80% of these are caused by indwelling urethral catheters. Up to 25% of all hospitalized patients will have a urinary catheter inserted while in the hospital. Half of these catheters may not be necessary. There is a 3-7% chance of developing bacteria in the urine within one day of insertion of a Foley catheter.

The bladder scanner uses ultrasound and helps to avoid unnecessary catheterizations by checking for urine volume non-invasively. If there is no urine in the bladder, in the presence of low urine output, a catheter would not need to be inserted. Before this technology was available, nurses had to check the volume of urine in the bladder by inserting a catheter. Therefore the bladder scanner will increase patient safety and prevent trauma and risk to the patient and unnecessary cost to the hospital.