

## **CHAMP: Bedside Teaching**

### **INDICATIONS FOR FOLEY CATHETER USE**

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#### **Teaching Trigger:**

Look for catheter at the side of the bed or by lifting blanket

#### **I. Clinical Question:**

Why is this patient catheterized?

#### **Teaching Points:**

1. Discuss indications for catheterization
  - a. Inability to void.
  - b. Urinary incontinence
    - i. Patient with open sacral or perineal wound
    - ii. At patient's request (end of life or informed preference)
  - c. Urine output monitoring
    - i. Frequent/urgent monitoring needed (eg, critical illness)
    - ii. Pt unable/unwilling to collect urine
  - d. During/immediately after prolonged surgical procedures with general or spinal anesthesia
2. If an indication for Foley catheter placement does not exist, then discontinue.

#### **II. Clinical Question:**

Why should Foley catheter use be minimized? [the other question seemed too simple: if somethings not indicated you shouldn't do it regardless]

#### **Teaching Points:**

1. Infection risk
  - a. Catheter-related UTIs (CAUTIs) cause of 40% of nosocomial infections
    - i. More people die from hospital acquired infections than from auto accidents and homicides combined.
  - b. Morbidity associated with Foley catheters
    - i.

Indwelling catheters

*Polymicrobial bacteriuria*

*(universal at 30 days)*

*Fever (1/100 pt-days)*

*Chronic pyelo*

*Bladder and renal stones*

*Urethral and meatal injury*

*Agitation*

External catheters

*Bacteriuria and infection*

*Penile cellulites, necrosis*

*Urrinary retention*

- c. CAUTIs can cause to delirium
- d. Quality of care mandates:
  - i. JCAHO Patient Safety requirement: reduce the risk of health care-acquired infections.
  - ii. Illinois: Public Act 93-0563, SB 59, 2003: mandates quarterly reporting of hospital infections rates, with yearly publishing by hospital.
  - iii. Consumers: [StopHospitalInfections.org](http://StopHospitalInfections.org)
2. Foley catheters are uncomfortable. They can lead to urethral and meatal trauma (traumatic hypospadias in men, patulous meatus in women, scarring, bleeding)
3. Foley catheters are restrictive (“one-point restraints”) that can led to falls and delirium.
4. Cost:
  - a. Unnecessary Foley catheter use results in unnecessary equipment and labor.
  - b. Hospital infections cost \$5 billion annually.
  - c. Nosocomial infections result in longer lengths of stay.
  - d. Functional decline in the aging hospitalized patient can result from longer lengths of stay related to Foley catheter morbidity.