

Citation: The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) – Compendium of Strategies to Prevent Healthcare-Associated Infections in Acute Care Hospitals (October 2008)

I. Basic practices for prevention and monitoring of CAUTI: recommended for all acute care hospitals

A. Appropriate infrastructure for preventing CAUTI

1. Provide and implement written guidelines for catheter use, insertion, and maintenance (A-II).
 - a. Develop and implement facility criteria for acceptable indications for the use of indwelling urinary catheters.
 - b. Indications for the use of indwelling urethral catheters are limited and include the following:^{35,47}
 - i.* Perioperative use for selected surgical procedures
 - ii.* Urine output monitoring in critically ill patients
 - iii.* Management of acute urinary retention and urinary obstruction
 - iv.* Assistance in pressure ulcer healing for incontinent residents
 - v.* As an exception, at patient request to improve comfort

Citation: CDC (November 2008)

Appropriate urinary catheter use

- Insert catheters only for appropriate indications and leave in place only as long as needed. (**Category IA**)
- Do not use catheters in patients and nursing home residents for management of incontinence. (**Category IB**)
- Use catheters in operative patients only as necessary, rather than routinely. (**Category IB**)
- For operative patients who have an indication for an indwelling catheter, remove the catheter as soon as possible, preferably within 24 hours, unless there are appropriate indications for continued use. (**Category IB**)

Appropriate indications for indwelling urethral catheter use

- Acute urinary retention or obstruction
- Need for accurate measurements of urinary output in critically ill patients
- Perioperative use for selected surgical procedures:
 - Patients undergoing surgeries of the GU tract
 - Anticipated prolonged duration of surgery
 - Patients anticipated to receive large-volume infusions or diuretics during surgery
 - Operative patients with urinary incontinence
 - Need for intraoperative hemodynamic monitoring
- To assist in healing of open sacral or perineal wounds in incontinent patients
- Patients who require prolonged immobilization (e.g. uncleared thoracic or lumbar spine)
- To improve comfort for end of life care if needed

Indwelling catheters should not be used:

- As a substitute for nursing care in those with incontinence
- As a means of obtaining urine for culture or other diagnostics when the patient can voluntarily void
- Prolonged post-operative use without appropriate indications