

# Catheter Care Do's and Don'ts

When an indwelling urinary catheter is present, follow these guidelines to prevent a catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI).

## DO

Do **perform hand hygiene** immediately before and after handling the catheter or drainage system, and **use clean gloves** while handling the catheter or drainage system.

Do perform peri-care using **only soap and water** or a similarly gentle cleaning agent.

Do keep the catheter and tubing from **kinking** and **becoming obstructed**.

Do **keep the catheter system closed** when using the urine collection or leg bags.

Do **replace** catheters and urine collection bags that become **disconnected**.

Do ensure the **resident's identifier and implementation date** is on her/his urine collection containers.

Do **disinfect the sampling port** before obtaining a sample.

Do **educate residents and families** about proper catheter care.

## DON'T

Don't **change catheters** or urine collection bags at **routine, fixed intervals**.

Don't administer routine **antimicrobial prophylaxis**.

Don't **use antiseptics** to cleanse the periurethral area while a catheter is in place.

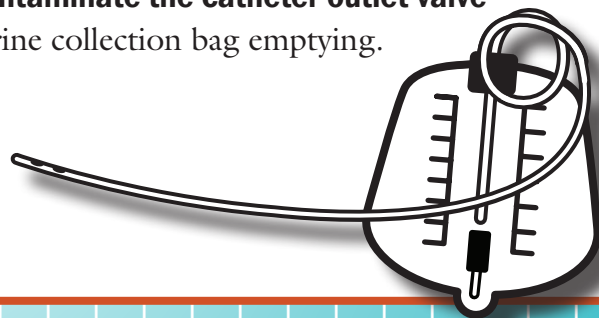
Don't **vigorously clean** the periurethral area.

Don't irrigate the bladder with **antimicrobials**.

Don't instill **antiseptic or antimicrobial solutions** into urine collection bags.

Don't **routinely screen** for asymptomatic bacteriuria (ASB).

Don't **contaminate the catheter outlet valve** during urine collection bag emptying.



## AHRQ Safety Program for Long-term Care: HAIs/CAUTI

### References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) approved guidelines for the prevention of catheter-associated urinary tract infections, 2009. <http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/CAUTI/CAUTIguideline2009final.pdf>.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Identifying Healthcare-associated Infections (HAI) for NHSN Surveillance (online). [http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/PDFs/pscManual/2PSC\\_IdentifyingHAIs\\_NHSNcurrent.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/PDFs/pscManual/2PSC_IdentifyingHAIs_NHSNcurrent.pdf).
3. National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). Long-term Care Facility (LTCF) Component Healthcare-Associated Infection Surveillance Module: UTI Event Reporting [online].
4. Nicolle L.E., Bradley S., Colgan, R., et al. Infectious Diseases Society of America Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Asymptomatic Bacteriuria in Adults. *Clin Inf Dis* 2005; 40:643-54.
5. Stone ND, Ashraf MS, Calder J. Surveillance Definitions of Infections in Long-Term Care Facilities: Revisiting the McGeer Criteria. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol* 2012;33(10):965-977.