Foley Catheter: Infection Prevention

We’re using a Foley catheter to drain urine directly from the bladder for a short period of time. Reasons a patient might need a Foley catheter include:

- An **epidural** is in place.
- The patient is **retaining urine**.
- We need to closely **monitor urinary output**.

In some cases, a care plan might require use of the Foley catheter for a longer time. The longer a patient uses the Foley, the more likely it is that irritation or infection might occur.

Our goal for patients using a Foley catheter is to return them to their **home toileting routine** as soon as possible, so we can remove the device.

While the Foley catheter is in use, we ask patients and/or their caregivers to **partner with us** to prevent irritation or infection.

**Keep Hands Clean**

Everyone (including nurses, doctors, the patient and caregivers) should thoroughly clean hands before and after touching the catheter bag or tubing. Hands should be washed with **soap and water** or sanitized with a **waterless hand rub**. Keeping hands clean is one of the easiest ways to prevent an infection from occurring with the use of a Foley catheter.

**Keep the Foley Catheter Clean and Safe**

**No one should touch, tug or twist** the catheter unless it’s absolutely necessary or a nurse instructs someone to do so.

Tell a nurse immediately if:

- The catheter or connected bag is **wet or dirty**
- The catheter and bag are **not connected**
- The catheter or bag **touches the floor**

**Watch for Signs of Infection**

Tell a nurse or doctor immediately if the patient develops:
• **Fever**
• **Chills**
• **Soreness or new drainage** at the location where the catheter enters the body

If you have any questions or concerns, talk to your nurse.

Make An Appointment

651-290-8707

Refer a Patient

651-325-2200

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