

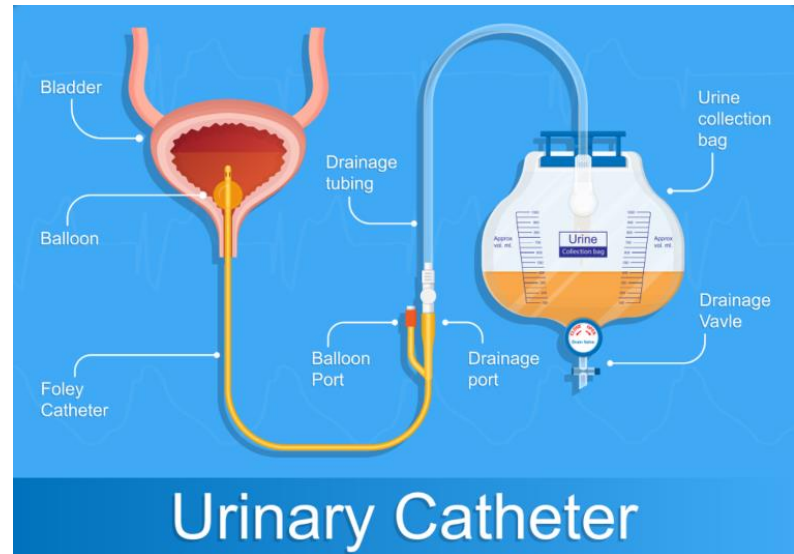
Proper Catheter Care and Prevention of Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI)

What is a Urinary Catheter?

A urinary catheter is a tube placed into the bladder through the urethra. The urine drains into a collection bag.

Why is a Urinary Catheter Placed?

Urinary catheters are placed to help promote comfort in the following instances: When urine is not properly exiting the bladder (urine retention) in instances including urinary disorders, enlarged prostates, etc. **and/or** when skin or wounds are irritated/worsened by urine on the skin from urinary incontinence.



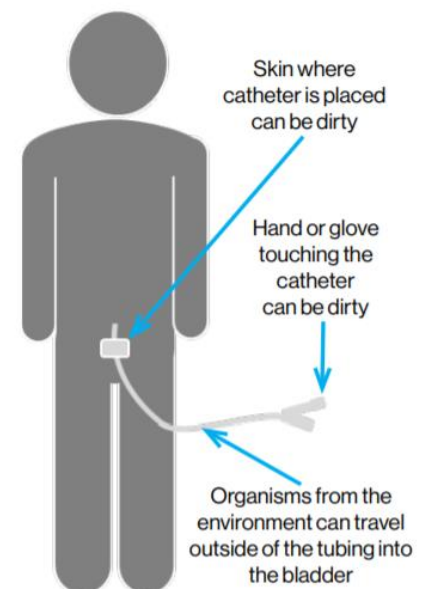
What is a CAUTI?

A CAUTI is a Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) of the urinary system to include the bladder and the kidneys. A CAUTI is caused by bacteria which travels along the catheter to cause infection in the bladder and/or kidneys. Having a urinary catheter increases the risk of developing a UTI.

How Can CAUTI's Be Prevented?

- Only trained BridgingLife staff should insert catheters using sterile technique.
- Wash hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based rub before touching a catheter.
- Clean the skin around the catheter and the catheter with soap and water at least daily. Always clean away from the opening of the urethra.
- Avoid disconnecting the catheter from the drainage tube, unless necessary for flushing.
- Ensure the catheter is always secured to the leg.
- The catheter should not be tugged or pulled on.
- Keep the drainage bag below the level of the bladder but off the floor, and empty the bag regularly.

How patients with urinary catheters can get infected with germs



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When Should You Call BridgingLife About Urinary Catheters?

When you or your loved one:

- Have a catheter that is leaking and/or not properly draining
- If the catheter appears clogged
- If you have questions about the catheter such as how to empty the bag or perform cleaning of the catheter
- You see sediment or particles in the urine
- Has symptoms of a UTI
 - a. Burning or pain in lower belly
 - b. Bloody urine
 - c. Purple tinged urine in bag or tubing
 - d. Strong smelling urine
 - e. Change in behavior
 - f. Fever

How Will BridgingLife Treat a CAUTI?

BridgingLife will consult with your doctor to determine the best treatment. Most likely, the catheter will be removed. It will be replaced if still needed. Antibiotics may be ordered to treat the infection.



Call BridgingLife with any questions or concerns 24/7 at 410-871-8000