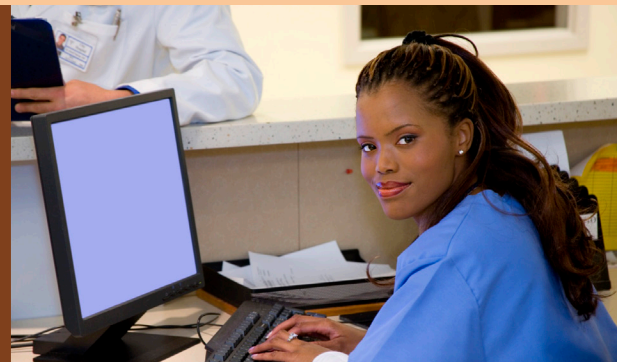


Preventing and Reporting CAUTI

HAI Reporting and Prevention Program
For Health Professionals

To combat the growing burden of HAIs in the healthcare setting, Alabama passed the Mike Denton Infection Reporting Act which requires the monitoring and reporting of CAUTI infections from certain wards within acute care facilities. The major goal is to establish a uniform method of HAI data collection, reporting, and evaluation. When gathering information for HAI reporting, catheter days, patient days, and infection event details will all be used in assessing infection comparisons.

Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections, or CAUTIs, are one of the most common hospital-associated infections (HAI) contributing to increased hospital stays, morbidity, mortality, and cost.



To reduce the risk of CAUTIs:

1. Use catheters only when necessary

- Avoid catheters for convenience only.
- Ask each day if the catheter is needed.



Limit the use of catheters to reduce the risk of UTIs.

2. Wash your hands

- Remember to always wash your hands before and after performing any patient care or handling equipment.
- Encourage family members and visitors to be diligent with hand washing.



Provide easy access to hand washing sinks and alcohol-based hand sanitizers; post signs or reminders to increase the amount of hand cleaning by healthcare providers and visitors.

3. Maintain Sterile Technique

- Ensure properly trained persons insert the catheter, using sterile techniques.
- Use sterile gloves during insertion.
- Never reinsert a catheter once sterile technique is broken. Use a new catheter.



Use a “buddy system” to confirm the use of appropriate sterile techniques during the placement of a catheter. This can serve as an effective way to maintain high standards.



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4. Maintain equipment safety

- Clean the skin at the site of insertion. Provide extra perineal care prior to the insertion if needed.
- Do not inflate the balloon prior to insertion unless recommended by the manufacturer.
- Remember to empty the urine bag regularly and maintain a closed integrity of the urine bag at all times.
- Remind the patient to keep the urine bag below their bladder and off of the floor and to avoid laying on the tubing or bending tubing as this can lead to obstructions in the urine flow.
- When obtaining urine samples, do so aseptically from the sample port.



Using a locking device instead of tape can prevent movement of the catheter.

5. Improve environmental cleaning

- Ensure patients are only moved into thoroughly cleaned rooms.
- Adhere to your hospital's standards when it comes to use of scrubs, dress code, and environmental cleaning.
- Limit handling of personal items, such as ties, pagers, and phones.

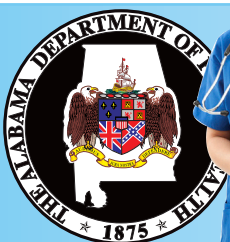


Fluorescent dye markers or UV powder may be used to guide individuals in cleaning procedures or to improve surveillance of environmental cleaning.



REMINDER:

Always report and document signs and symptoms indicating a UTI in the patient's medical record. Accurate and timely reporting is important to early recognition and treatment of CAUTI.



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