

Indwelling Foley Catheter Indications

Appropriate uses include:

- ◆ Acute urinary retention/bladder outlet obstruction
- ◆ Need for accurate I and O if critically ill
- ◆ Assist in healing open sacral/perineal wound in incontinent patients
 - To improve comfort during end-of-life care, if needed
 - Perioperative use in selected surgical procedures
 - ◆ Urologic/other surgeries on contiguous structures of GU tract
 - ◆ Anticipated prolonged duration of surgery (should be removed in PACU)
 - ◆ Operative patients with urinary incontinence
 - ◆ Need for intraoperative hemodynamic monitoring

Inappropriate uses include:

- ◆ A substitute for nursing care of the patient or nursing home resident with urinary incontinence
- ◆ A means of obtaining urine for culture or other diagnostic tests when the patient can voluntarily void
- ◆ For prolonged postoperative duration without appropriate indications (e.g., structural repair of urethra or contiguous structures, prolonged effect of epidural anesthesia, etc.)

NOTE: Beware of Foley catheter “indication creep”

Adapted from Gould, C.V., Umscheid, C.A., Agarwal, R.K, Kuntz, G., Pegues, D.A., & Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (2010). Guideline for prevention of catheter-associated urinary tract infections (2009). Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Retrieved from: <http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/CAUTI/CAUTIguideline2009final.pdf>

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