

# **Prevention of Catheter-Related UTIs:**

- **Patient selection for catheter insertion is standardized so that catheterization is reserved for restricted use in limited clinical conditions**
- **Perform proper hand hygiene before and after handling a catheter**
- **Assess need for catheter every shift**
- **Use 14 French catheter whenever possible**
- **Keep bag below level of bladder**
- **Wash catheter and perineum with soap and water at least once a shift or after each stool**
- **Do not break system for any reason; a leading cause of contamination**
- **Empty catheter drainage bag before transport, and whenever full**
- **Keep catheter strap in place**
- **D/C catheter upon transfer to floor, unless medically indicated**
- **If S/S of infection, D/C catheter and replace with new one before obtaining culture**

# **Criteria for Maintaining an Indwelling Urinary Catheter**

- Patients experiencing hemodynamic instability requiring IV vasopressors/fluids for maintenance of blood pressure or cerebral perfusion
- Patients with uncleared spinal radiographic studies (thoracic/lumbar region, female only)
- Patients who are incontinent with skin breakdown, which is at risk for contamination (buttocks, sacrum, perineal areas)
- Patients who are deeply sedated (obtunded due to injury, illness, or chemical induction)
- Patients with urological or gastrointestinal requirements for indwelling catheters. For example, patients experiencing surgical disruption of the urinary tract system, medical intervention for the relief of bladder outlet obstruction, urethral strictures, abdominal perineal or lower anterior colon restrictions, or pelvic pouch or colon anastomosis procedures
- The presence of an epidural catheter is NOT an automatic indication for an indwelling catheter, and depends on the placement. Thoracic patients must maintain catheters until their epidurals are discontinued
- Assess a patient's need for an indwelling catheter at least once per shift
- 40% of all nosocomial infections are UTIs; 80% of those are indwelling catheter-related
- If a patient does not fall within one of the criterion, the catheter should be discontinued