

IPC Bulletin for Domiciliary Care

Issue No. 45 - February 2025



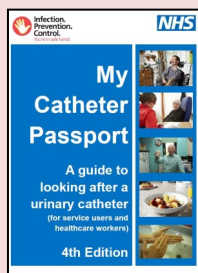
Produced by an NHS Community Infection Prevention and Control Team based in North Yorkshire for distribution to subscribers.

Urinary catheters

Did you know:

- A urinary catheter will become colonised by bacteria within 48 hours
- For every day that a urinary catheter remains in situ, the risk of a catheter associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI) increases by approximately 5%
- Urinary tract infections account for around 1 in 5 of all healthcare associated infection (HCAI) with almost 50% associated with urinary catheters

For some service users, having either a short-term or long-term urinary catheter is essential. However, all catheters pose a continual and increasing risk of urine infection which can lead to life threatening complications, such as sepsis. Every service user who has a catheter should have a plan in place to manage its replacement or removal.



Catheter Passports

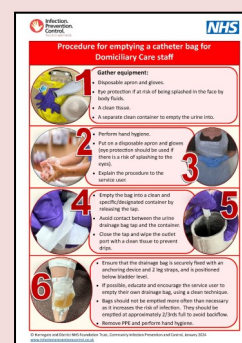
- Each service users who has a catheter should have a catheter passport.
- This is a patient held booklet containing information relating to their catheter to:
 - ◇ Improve the continuity of care between the community and hospital
 - ◇ Provide advice to service users on catheter care
 - ◇ Provide advice to care workers on catheter care

Minimise the risk

- Ensure staff who empty or change the catheter bag have appropriate catheter management training.
- Perform hand hygiene and use appropriate personal protective equipment when handling catheters.
- Empty the drainage bag into a suitable clean container and to prevent drips, use a clean tissue to wipe the tap after closing.
- Remind the service user of the importance of keeping the drainage bag off the floor.
- Support personal hygiene, cleaning the catheter tubing in the direction away from the person's body to the catheter bag.
- Ensure the catheter is secure using a catheter fixation device or strap.

A selection of resources on urinary catheter care can be downloaded free:

www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/resources/?filter_keyword=&filter_audience%5B%5D=domiciliary-care&filter_topic%5B%5D=utis



What's new for Domiciliary Care staff

- [Viral gastroenteritis in a supported living or sheltered housing complex: Outbreak management Pack for Domiciliary Care](#)
- IPC training event for Care Homes and Domiciliary Care: 17th March, 2025. **BOOK NOW to reserve your place** at www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/events/

Visit our website to find lots of IPC resources, many of which are free to download.

www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk

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01423 557340

