

IPC Bulletin for Domiciliary Care

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

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

Is a catheter still required?

Review every service user. Reduce harm. Improve care.



Continuing need?
consider alternatives,
Prevent harm!

Why this matters!	ASK...	When a catheter may be appropriate!
<p>Catheter associated urinary tract infections are among the most common healthcare associated infections in both hospital and community settings. Long term catheterisation can increase the risk of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catheter associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs) and bloodstream infections • Avoidable hospital admissions • Increased antimicrobial prescribing 	<p>? Does this service user still need a catheter?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Is the catheter still clinically indicated? <input type="checkbox"/> Have alternatives been considered? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has a trial without catheter (TWOC) been considered? <input type="checkbox"/> Has the service user's condition changed since insertion? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Urinary retention/obstruction.  End of life comfort care.  Accurate urine output monitoring in critical illness.  To protect an open/peritoneal wound.  Specialist urological recommendation.
<p>Many long-term catheters remain in place longer than clinically necessary GIRFT (Getting it right first time).</p>	<p>Refer to the: Houdini protocol.</p>	<p>Check ongoing need regularly! UTI/catheter Resources.</p>

Catheter maintenance principles

	Maintain a closed sterile drainage system	✓		Empty the drainage bag regularly using a clean technique	✓
	Keep the catheter secure using a stabilisation device	✓		Perform hand hygiene before and after catheter care	✓
	Position the drainage bag below the bladder and off the floor	✓		Document reviews and ongoing indication	✓
	Ensure urine flows freely and tubing is not kinked	✓		Do not use dipsticks to diagnose a urinary tract infection in a catheterised resident	✓

What's new

- **IPC training event** for Care Homes and Domiciliary Care: 16th November, 2026 - **Book now to reserve your place.** 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

Call us on **01423 557340**

