

Decreased Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI)

Vanessa Kelly, MSN, RN, CIC

Jasmine Seger RN, T-CHEST

Baptist Health Hardin Infection Prevention

Background

From 2020 through 2022, during the COVID pandemic, our facility saw an increase in CAUTI cases in our inpatient population.

In 2018, there was one CAUTI case compared to the height of 14 cases in 2021.

Objective

To decrease the cases of CAUTI infections and improved patient care outcomes.

- Chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG) replaces routine bathing for entire ICU stay.
- Do NOT use soap below the jawline. Certain soaps and lotions can inactivate CHG.
- Only use CHG compatible lotions and/or barrier products.
- Dispose of all cloths in the trash. Do NOT flush.

BATHE WITH CHG USING FIRM MASSAGE TO REMOVE BACTERIA

INCONTINENCE:

- Clean with chux and water, NOT soap.
- Then bathe with CHG cloths, air dry.
- Use as many CHG cloths as needed.
- Apply CHG compatible barrier.
- Repeat throughout the day, as needed.

LINES AND TUBES:

- CHG is safe on lines, tubes, and devices.
- Bathe with CHG right up to the dressing.
- Okay to bathe over occlusive dressings.
- After "wing" skin, clean 6 inches of tubes/foley nearest patient.

ONLY USE CHG CLOTHS BELOW THE JAWLINE



Methods

CAUTI/CLABSI team discussed concerns and implemented the following interventions to prevent catheter infections:

- Reviewed and discussed CAUTI cases by interdisciplinary team.
- Implemented house-wide CHG bathing for patients with a foley catheter
- Daily emails sent to leaders by infection type that included: foley days, indication for catheter, missing foley orders.
- Inpatient managers from each area turn in at least 5 CAUTI audits per month to help identify fall outs and areas for improvement.
- Educators completed a competency rodeo for all staff in 2023 to include hands on check offs for catheter insertion and care; continued education on foley care and early removal.
- External caths are being monitored for appropriate usage as well.

- **BATHE WITH CHG CLOTHS USING A FIRM MASSAGE TO REMOVE BACTERIA**
- **INCONTINENCE:**
 - Clean the affected area with water and a clean cloth. **DO NOT USE SOAP**
 - Then bathe with CHG clothes, air dry
 - Use as many CHG cloths as needed (dispose in trash **DO NOT FLUSH**)
 - Apply CHG compatible barrier
 - Repeat throughout the day, as needed
- **LINES AND TUBES:**
 - CHG is safe on lines, tubes, and devices
 - Bathe with CHG right up to the dressing
 - Okay to bathe over occlusive dressing
 - After bathing skin, utilize a clean CHG cloth to clean tubing from urinary catheter, drain, g tubes/ tubes, chest tubes, and rectal tubes starting at the patient and wiping away approximately 6 inches.
- **ONLY USE CHG CLOTHS BELOW THE JAWLINE:**
 - Cloth 1: Neck, shoulders, and chest
 - Cloth 2: Both arms, hands, web spaces, and axilla
 - Cloth 3: Abdomen then groin/perineum
 - **CHANGE GLOVES** before proceeding
 - Cloth 4: Right leg, foot, and web spaces
 - Cloth 5: Left leg, foot, and web spaces
 - Cloth 6: back of neck, back and then buttocks
- **Skin may feel sticky for a few minutes, DO NOT wipe off, allow the CHG to air dry**

Results

From the height of 14 CAUTI cases in calendar year 2021, our facility decreased the number of cases to 4 in calendar year 2023.

Currently we are a little over 7 months CAUTI free.



Impact

In years to come, the project will hopefully help reduce the number of CAUTI cases down to zero and maintain it. There is always room for improvement and ways to avoid utilizing foley catheters.

References

[Toolkit for Decolonization of Non-ICU Patients With Devices Toolkit Overview and Recommended Prelaunch Activities \(ahrq.gov\)](#)