

# Indwelling Urinary Catheter Education

## Your Indwelling Urinary Catheter

A urinary catheter is a tube placed in the bladder to drain urine. The urine drains through a tube into a bag. If you have a urinary catheter, it is possible for germs to travel along the tube and cause an infection in your bladder or kidney. If this happens, it is called a catheter-associated urinary tract infection or “CAUTI.”

## What do I need to do to prevent a CAUTI?

- Ask your healthcare team each day if you still need your catheter.
- Make sure your catheter tubing is secure to your leg or belly.
- Check that all hospital staff wash or clean their hands before and after touching your catheter.
- Make sure that anyone touching your tube or bag wears gloves.
- Do not tug, pull or twist the catheter tubing.
- Always keep your urine drain bag below the level of your bladder or hips and off the floor.
- Do not take apart the catheter from the drain tube. This is an infection risk.

## What are the symptoms of a urinary tract infection?

- Burning or pain in the lower abdomen (below the stomach).
- Fever
- Bloody urine
- After the tube is removed:
  - Burning during urination
  - Increase in the need to urinate

## Why is it important for me to do this?

Our goal is to keep you from getting a CAUTI. We will be checking every day to see if your catheter can be removed. You can help by telling us if you have any symptoms.