

Algorithm Example for Regular Evaluation of Indwelling Catheter Necessity and Removal

Does your patient have an appropriate indication for an indwelling catheter per your hospital policy?¹

Indications per Hospital Policy:

Yes

Refer to “Sample Algorithm for Urine Management Device Selection” to determine if less invasive options may be considered

No

RN removes catheter^{1,2}
(obtain discontinuation order, if needed per hospital policy)

Has patient voided within hospital defined timeframe?²

No

Consider bladder scanning and interventions per hospital policy²

Yes

Does patient have symptoms of urinary retention such as abdominal fullness or discomfort?²

Yes

Consider bladder scanning and interventions per hospital policy²

No

Continue monitoring per hospital policy²

1. Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology. (2025). Guide to preventing catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI). <https://www.apic.org>
2. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. (2020). Appendix M. Example of a nurse-driven protocol for catheter removal. <https://www.ahrq.gov/hai/cauti-tools/impl-guide/implementation-guide-appendix-m.html>

**Catheter Care
Awareness Week**

Identifying CAUTI risk factors starts with you.



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