

Preventing Healthcare-Associated Infections

Healthcare-associated infections (HAI) are a threat to patient safety. The prevention and reduction of healthcare-associated infections is a top priority for us. Types of infections:

Post-operative Sepsis

Sepsis — a severe reaction in response to an infection — is a top cause of death in hospitalized patients that costs the health care system at least \$41 billion each year. It typically affects 1.7 million U.S. patients yearly, with about 270,000 of those cases resulting in death. Early recognition and effective treatment of sepsis not only saves lives but also frees up scarce resources and dollars that hospitals need for staff or to rebuild services and infrastructure. (Source: Joint Commission.)

Catheter-associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI)

A urinary tract infection (UTI) is an infection involving any part of the urinary system, including urethra, bladder, ureters, and kidney. UTIs are the most common type of healthcare-associated infection reported to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). Among UTIs acquired in the hospital, approximately 75% are associated with a urinary catheter, which is a tube inserted into the bladder through the urethra to drain urine. Between 15-25% of hospitalized patients receive urinary catheters during their hospital stay. The most important risk factor for developing a catheter-associated UTI (CAUTI) is prolonged use of the urinary catheter. Therefore, catheters should only be used for appropriate indications and should be removed as soon as they are no longer needed. (Source: CDC.)

We have implemented the following actions to keep you safe and to reduce incidence of infections and injury:

- Urinary catheters are only used when medically necessary
- Alternatives to urinary catheters are encouraged
- Daily review of urinary catheters to determine if still medically appropriate
- Specially trained nurses to place urinary catheters
- Hourly rounding to ensure patient needs are met and environment is free of obstacles
- Leader rounding on high risk fall patients
- Bed alarms for high risk fall patients

Nothing is more important to us than you. Thank you for helping us put safety FIRST.

