

# 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:

## Catheter-associated Urinary Tract Infections (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: [https://www.cdc.gov/hai/ca\\_uti/uti.html](https://www.cdc.gov/hai/ca_uti/uti.html)

## In-hospital Fall with Fracture

Falls resulting in injury are a prevalent patient safety problem. Elderly and frail patients with fall risk factors are not the only ones who are vulnerable to falling in health care facilities. Any patient of any age or physical ability can be at risk for a fall due to physiological changes due to a medical condition, medications, surgery, procedures, or diagnostic testing that can leave them weakened or confused. Here are some statistics about falls in health care facilities:

- Every year in the United States, hundreds of thousands of patients fall in hospitals, with 30-50 percent resulting in injury.
- Injured patients require additional treatment and sometimes prolonged hospital stays. In one study, a fall with injury added 6.3 days to the hospital stay.

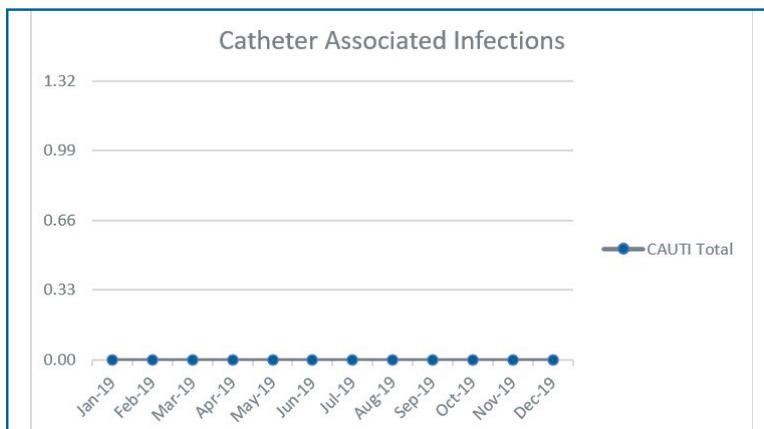
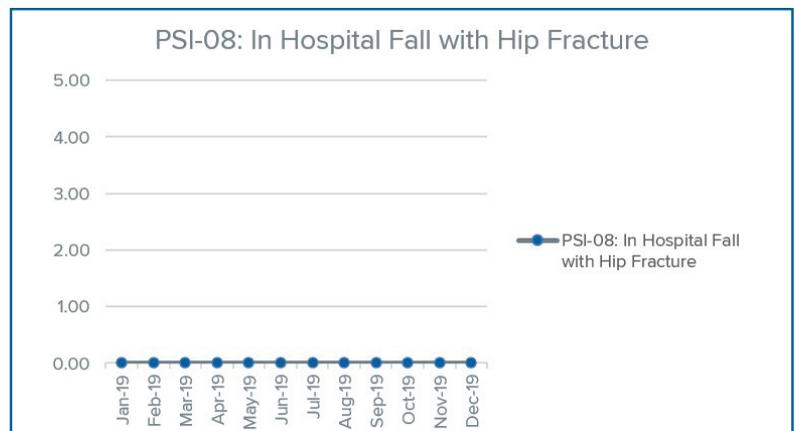
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## We have implemented the following actions to keep you safe and to reduce incidence of infections:

- 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

**\* There were 0 infections out of all catheters placed**

**\*\* There were 0 in-hospital falls that resulted in a hip fracture**



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