Nursing Protocol
Urinary Catheter Discontinuation (D/C) After 48 Hours

Purpose

To limit indwelling urinary catheter time to 48 hours, in patients for whom catheterization is no longer indicated, in order to decrease the risk for nosocomial infection, in accordance with Policy and Procedure NU-19: Catheterization and Management of Urinary Bladder (Indwelling Foley and Straight Catheter)

Exclusion Criteria

The following categories of patients are excluded from the approved nurse-driven Urinary Catheter Discontinuation protocol:

- Urologic patients
- Patients who have had a urinary catheter inserted by Urology Service
- Patients who are post rectal surgery with low anterior approach
- Patients with an order to maintain chronic (i.e., long-term) urinary catheter
- Patients with an existing order that specifies urinary catheter removal time

Protocol

RNs will place order and will discontinue urinary catheters 48 hours after insertion time, in eligible patients, as follows:

Assessment of Eligibility for RN Discontinuation of Urinary Catheter

- Date and time of urinary catheter insertion will be documented for all patients.
- Patients will be assessed daily by RNs for indications for continued catheterization, per Policy and Procedure NU-19.
- For eligible patients (see Exclusion Criteria, above) the scheduled discontinuation date and time, which will be 48 hours after the insertion time, will be documented by RNs.
- If less than 48 hours has elapsed since insertion, RNs will consult daily with MD/LIP regarding continued medical indication(s) for catheterization and possible discontinuation of the catheter.

Nurse-Driven Discontinuation of Urinary Catheter after 48 hours, for Eligible Patients

- RNs will:
  - Enter discontinuation order in LifeLinks.
  - Remove the catheter (see Removal section in Policy and Procedure NU-19, as needed).
  - Document date, time, amount and characteristics of urine per Policy and Procedure NU-19.
After catheter removal:
  o RNs will assess patient for voiding every 2 hours for 6-8 hours.
  o If patient is unable to void after 6-8 hours and/or complains of discomfort or voids <250 cc over 2-4 hours, RNs will assess and document bladder volume by one of these methods:
    ▪ Preferred: Bladder ultrasound
    ▪ Alternative (if ultrasound not available): Straight catheterization of the bladder (see Insertion section of Policy and Procedure NU-19, as needed)
  o After straight catheterization, if patient is unable to void after 6-8 hours and/or complains of discomfort or voids <250 cc over 2-4 hours, RNs will notify MD/LIP.