Stage 2 - Trial of void procedure

The trial of void procedure can be complex and requires assessment of the individual patient. Once the catheter is removed, the clinician should:

- Encourage fluid intake, in line with any fluid restrictions, and maintain fluid balance chart;
- Ensure that the patient can easily access bathroom facilities and keep an eye out for fall risk and patient confusion;
- Observe if the patient voided in the six hours post removal; and
- Observe if the patient experienced any pain during voiding.

If voiding occurs and is pain free scan the bladder to confirm residual volume and leave the catheter out. Continue to monitor the patient for signs of urinary retention.

If voiding was not observed after catheter removal then review fluid balance and scan the bladder. It may be necessary to prompt the patient to void and inform patient that recatheterisation may be necessary. If still voiding does not occur, determine the bladder volume using a bladder scan. Seek advice from the team leader, medical officer or specialist nurse on the most appropriate clinical pathway for the patient.

Tips for catheter removal

- Prior to catheter removal, review patient history for any difficulty documented during catheter insertion. You may need to seek medical advice or assistance to remove the catheter if catheter insertion was difficult.
- The optimal time to remove a catheter is 6AM. Removal at this time will enable access to appropriate clinical resources if recatheterisation is required later in the day.
- Be mindful that patients with a spinal cord injury, stroke or delirium may have a limited pain response and therefore may be unable to express if voiding is painful.
- Always seek advice from the team leader, medical officer or specialist nurse before recatheterising a patient or catheterising with an intermittent catheter.

References


About this Project

This project is being undertaken by the CEC’s HAI program. The HAI program aims to assist local health districts and speciality health networks to improve systems to manage and monitor the prevention and control of HAIs. For further information on the HAI program, please visit http://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/programs/hai.