Urinary Catheters: Implications of Early Removal on Urinary Tract Infections and Urinary Dysfunction
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Problem
Urinary tract infections and urinary dysfunction are common side effects of urinary catheterizations.

Evidence
Studies suggest a positive correlation exists between urinary dysfunction, urinary tract infections and duration of urinary catheterization. (1,3,5,7,8) Staff education regarding removal of urinary catheters as early as possible, may result in a decrease in length of urinary catheterization resulting in a decrease in negative outcomes. (1,6)

Strategy
Creation of a team that includes a physician, Ed nurse, ICU nurse, Floor nurse, materials management, and a manager for discussion of the synthesized literature and a plan for change.

Practice Change
Discussion of possible policy changes from the experts involved in patient care. The discussion would include identification of appropriate medical diagnosis that indicate initiation of urinary catheterization and an additional policy that would empower the nurse to discontinue use of the catheter as early as possible.

Evaluation/Results/Recommendations/Lessons Learned
Will report findings of the literature, discussion of professional experts and the outcome of the policy changes.

Bibliography: