



Scott Walker
Governor

Dennis G. Smith
Secretary

State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

DIVISION OF QUALITY ASSURANCE

1 WEST WILSON STREET
P O BOX 2969
MADISON WI 53701-2969

Telephone: 608-266-8481
FAX: 608-267-0352
TTY: 888-241-9432
dhs.wisconsin.gov

Date: February 13, 2012

DQA Memo 12-002

To: Nursing Homes

NH 02

From: Otis Woods, Administrator
Division of Quality Assurance

**Prevention of Urinary Tract Infections
Use of a Catheter – Standard of Practice Resource**

Background

Urinary tract infections (UTI) are the most common type of infections in nursing homes. Recent data shows that over 9% of all Wisconsin nursing home residents, roughly 2,740 individuals, have a UTI. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has stated that virtually all healthcare-associated UTIs are caused by inserting a catheter. Urinary tract infections increase morbidity, the length of stay at a facility and the cost of health care.

Many catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs) can be prevented by using recommended infection control measures. Prevention strategies should focus on clear indications for the insertion of a catheter, proper maintenance while the catheter is being used, and removal of the catheter as soon as the catheter is no longer medically justified.

Standard of Practice Resource

The Division of Quality Assurance (DQA) has developed the Standard of Practice Resource, Use of a Catheter (F315), for nursing homes to promote high performance standards, good resident outcomes and to understand the federal requirements regarding the prevention of urinary tract infections.

The Standard of Practice Resource includes:

- Federal regulations, intent and interpretative guidelines for F315
- 2009 CDC Guidelines for the Prevention of CAUTIs
- Additional resources

The Standard of Practice Resource for Use of a Catheter (F315) is located at:
<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p0/p00285.pdf>

If you have questions or comments regarding this information, please contact:

Vicky Griffin, RN, BSN

Nursing Consultant

Division of Quality Assurance

Victoria.Griffin@dhs.wisconsin.gov

Telephone: (414) 227-4705