

Safe Practices for Better Healthcare-2009 Update: A Consensus Report

Article summary:

The National Quality Forum (NQF) recommends (for progressive organizations) direct visualization of the urethra during catheter insertion in order to avoid urethral injury and subsequent risk of infection.

According to the NQF "Safe Practices for Better Healthcare-2009 Update", Safe Practice 25 states that for better healthcare "Take actions to prevent catheter-associated urinary tract infection [CAUTI] by implementing evidence-based intervention practices." The objective of this safe practice is to prevent healthcare-acquired CAUTI, which is the second most frequent healthcare-associated infection in acute care hospitals and has been associated with increased morbidity, mortality, hospitalization cost, and length of stay. The Safe Practice specifies that progressive organizations implement specific strategies: "Innovations include direct visualization of the urethra during insertion of catheters with the recognition that damage to the urethra can occur with blind insertion, leading to risk of infection."

National Quality Forum, 2009. Safe Practices for Better Healthcare-2009 Update: A Consensus Report. Washington, DC.

http://www.qualityforum.org/Publications/2009/03/Safe_Practices_for_Better_Healthcare%e2%80%932009_Update.aspx

