

Catheter Acquired Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI)

A urinary tract infection (UTI) is an infection involving any part of the urinary system including urethra, bladder, ureters, and kidney. UTIs are the most common type of healthcare-associated infection. Among UTIs acquired in the hospital, approximately 75% are associated with a urinary catheter, which is a tube inserted into the bladder through the urethra to drain urine. Between 15-25% of hospitalized patients receive urinary catheters during their hospital stay.

The most important risk factor for developing a catheter-associated UTI (CAUTI) is prolonged use of the urinary catheter. Therefore, catheters should only be used for appropriate indications and should be removed as soon as they are no longer needed. Because unnecessary catheterization and prolonged catheter usage are the most significant risk factors for CAUTI, Union Hospital has focused prevention efforts in these areas.

Hospitals are required to report the number of total days patients have urinary catheters and their incidence of CAUTI to the Federal Government. The graphs below demonstrate Union Hospital's incidence of CAUTI as compared to other hospitals in the state and nation as reported on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Hospital Compare website www.medicare.gov/hospitalcompare. Even though our rate of CAUTI is lower than the state and national, we continually strive to eliminate CAUTI.

