

Script for patient or family requests for non-medically indicated indwelling urinary catheters

Scenario 1—a patient or family member requests an indwelling urinary catheter because the patient and/or family does not want the patient to get out of bed:

- *“Urinary catheters can be harmful.”*
- *“They can hurt the bladder and cause you to feel pain below your belly button.”*
- *“Also, urinary catheters cause urinary infections which could spread to your blood and lead to a longer stay in the hospital. “*
- *“Urinary catheters can limit your movement in bed and in your room. Limited activity could make you weak.”*
- *“Urinary catheters can be uncomfortable and patients can misinterpret the sensation of the catheter as the need to go to the bathroom.”*
- *“One of the best ways to recover from your illness is to get up and move as soon as the doctor says that it is fine to do so. Research shows that urinary catheters may interfere with your movement.”*

Consider including the following statement for hospitals that have hourly rounding:

- *“We (the nurses) will touch base with every patient, about every hour. If you/your family member needs to get out of bed for any reason, we will see him/her every hour and can assist him/her to the bathroom at that time. That would be the safest way to manage his/her symptoms.”*

Scenario 2—a patient or family member wants the patient to have an indwelling urinary catheter because they are afraid of urinary incontinence or of falling:

In addition to all of the above statements, additional statements are:

- *“Men can use an external catheter also known as a condom catheter that is placed over the penis rather than in it.”*
- *“Bed-side commodes can be requested if you feel you are too weak to walk to the bathroom.”*
- *“If you (or your family) are concerned about falling please let the hospital staff know because there are extra precautions that can be taken such as sitters, help walking to the bathroom, and hourly rounding.”*
- *“We can use disposable underwear, hospital gowns, and waterproof sheets if you are worried about soiling linens.”*
- *“Urinary catheters may limit your movement in bed and in your room and may actually make it more difficult to walk.*
- *“Urinary catheters may actually lead to more falls because of tripping.”*