

OP5

GOLD STANDARD CATHETER CARE FOR CARE HOMES

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Aim:

In our county we have a UTI reduction group led by a microbiologist. In 2022 there were 223 admissions from care homes to our acute trust with a UTI. To reduce the number of UTI admissions we were asked to facilitate an improvement project focusing on improving catheter care.

In 2023 this work identified the main reason for catheters was retention (45%). 13% of nursing home residents met the criteria for being eligible for a Trial without a Catheter (TWOC) but only 4% had a successful TWOC. A key finding was a timely TWOC had not been considered so both the staff and the resident had accepted the resident would have a catheter for the remainder of their life. Building on this it was agreed to promote good catheter care and the development of a process to support early TWOC.

Method:

Catheter care posters were given to for every care home. Alongside it we designed a survey tool to review catheter care covering the points in the posters. Next, we held a webinar and explained the standards as well as the survey.

The members of the team then went out to 111 care homes to complete the survey.

Results:

In process - completes end of February. The data will cover the reason for the catheter use and aspects of catheter care such as use of a closed link system, hydration and skin care. A workshop has been arranged for the 22 March 2024 to feedback the learning to care home teams.

Conclusion:

Making lasting changes requires system-wide collaboration and partner working. In order to embed the learning, it needs to be a considered, step by step process giving time for staff to adopt and develop the skills required. Planning is in place to continue the improvement process.