

According to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Urinary Tract infection (UTIs) are the 5<sup>th</sup> most common type of healthcare associated infection. Approximately 12-16% of adult inpatients hospitalized will have an indwelling catheter during their admission and each day a urinary catheter is in place patients have a 3%-7% increased risk of acquiring a catheter associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI). [Urinary Tract Infection \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/psnet/article44.pdf)

At Seton Medical Center Harker Heights (SMCHH) we strive to keep our patients safe and free from infection. During the height of the COVID 19 pandemic in 2021, though, one of our patients experienced a CAUTI. We used this experience to re-evaluate our process and took the following steps to prevent another occurrence.

Steps we took to decrease and maintain a zero CAUTI rate since 2021-

- 1) Introduced a female and male external catheter option to all inpatient units.
- 2) Daily evaluations of all foleys with department directors during safety huddle.
- 3) Remove any foleys if no longer medically indicated

