Clean your hands when handling an urinary catheter and drainage system

Immediately before any manipulation of the urinary catheter or drainage system that could lead to contamination of the sterile urine, such as:

2a. Inserting or applying an indwelling, intermittent straight, or condom catheter; immediately before putting on sterile gloves
2b. Accessing the drainage system to collect an urine sample or to empty the drainage bag

WHY? To protect the patient against harmful germs, including the patient’s own, from entering his/her body.

Clean your hands when handling an urinary catheter and drainage system

Immediately after any task involving the urinary catheter or drainage system that could lead to urine exposure, such as:

3a. Collecting an urine sample
3b. Emptying the drainage bag
3c. Removing the urinary catheter

WHY? To protect yourself and the health-care environment from harmful patient germs.

5 key additional considerations for a patient with an urinary catheter

- Make sure that there is an appropriate indication for the indwelling urinary catheter.
- Use a closed urinary drainage system, and keep it closed.
- Insert the catheter aseptically using sterile gloves.
- Assess the patient at least daily to determine whether the catheter is still necessary.
- Patients with indwelling urinary catheters do not need antibiotics (including for asymptomatic bacteriuria), unless they have a documented infection.

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