

The Use of Urinary Catheters in Eastern Health

Choosing Wisely Canada Recommendation

Do not insert an indwelling urinary catheter or leave it in place without daily assessment.

Practice Points

1. Indwelling urinary catheters among hospital patients lead to preventable harms such as urinary tract infection, sepsis, and delirium.
2. Indications for catheter include acute urinary obstruction, critical illness, and end-of-life care.
3. Guidelines regarding inappropriate urinary catheter use have reduced health care-associated urinary tract infections in other jurisdictions.

Data

Daily urinary catheter use and number of beds occupied was obtained from NL Centre for Health Information for the hospitals in Eastern Health (EH) for 2018 and 2019 by ward.

Results

Legend for Figures 1-2

NMED = Medicine	SCU = Special Care Unit	N = North
NS = Neuro Surgery	VICU = Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit	S = South
U = Urology	SSCU = Surgical Special Care Unit	E = East
ORT = Orthopaedic Surgery	VSCU = Vascular Special Care Unit	W = West

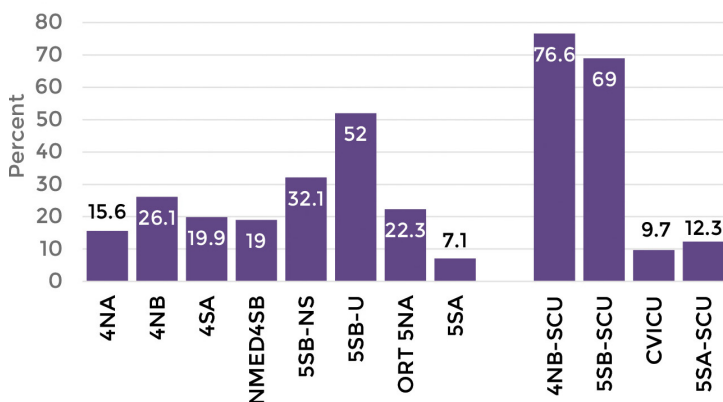
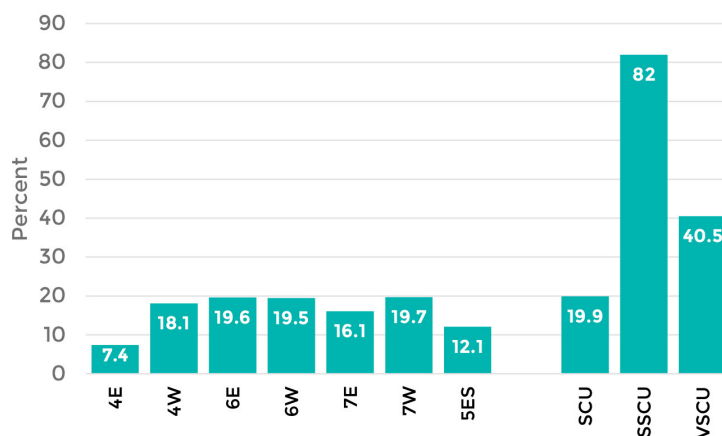


Figure 1. Urinary Catheter Use as Percent of Beds Occupied in Health Sciences Centre (HSC) by Ward and Special Care Unit



* As anticipated the highest rates were in Surgery and SV Special care units.

Figure 2. Urinary Catheter Use as Percent of Beds Occupied in St Clare's Hospital by Ward and Special Care Unit

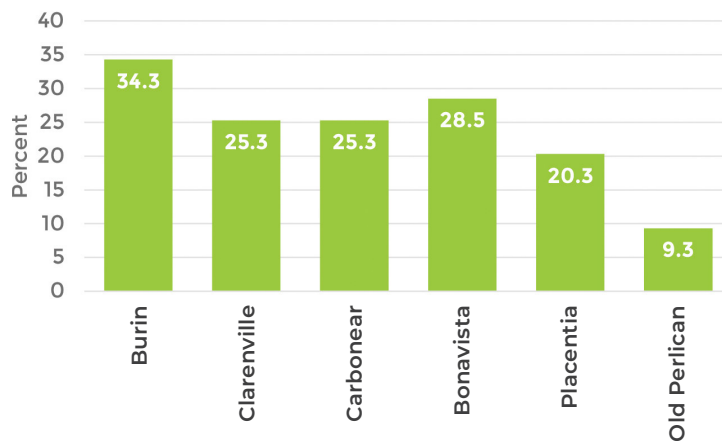


Figure 3. Urinary Catheter Use as Percent of Beds Occupied in the Medical/Surgical Beds of the Peninsular Hospitals and Health Centres of EH

Conclusion

Given the high rate of catheter use, an intervention such as guidelines to reduce inappropriate urinary catheter use should be introduced in all hospitals.