

Educating patients and their family members about the importance of urinary catheter risks can be an important way to reduce the unnecessary use of urinary catheters.

1. Patients and families may believe that the use of indwelling urinary catheters is in the patient's best interest, however we have found that this is often based on incomplete, and sometimes incorrect, information. It is important to educate your patients and their family members about the risks of a Foley, the benefits of early removal, and alternative toileting options.
 - Written by members of our team, "[What Patients and Family Members Need to Know About the Risks Associated with Urinary Catheters](#)" is a brochure that offers information about urinary catheters, appropriate indications, and ways to discuss its use. This brochure can be tailored to your site.
 - Distributed by the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America, the one page sheet, "[FAQs about Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections](#)", provides patients with an overview of urinary catheters, catheter-associated urinary tract infections, and how patients can safely care for their urinary catheter.
 - It may be helpful to practice various scenarios. See "[Script for patient or family requests for non-medically indicated indwelling urinary catheters](#)" for suggestions of statements that we have found useful.

2. For other resources, please visit:
 - <http://www.ahrq.gov/professionals/systems/hospital/engagingfamilies/index.html>
 - <http://www.rwjf.org/en/research-publications/find-rwjf-research/2013/02/patient-engagement.html>

3. Further reading suggestions
 - Krein SL, Kowalski CP, Harrod M, Forman J, Saint S. [Barriers to reducing urinary catheter use: a qualitative assessment of a statewide initiative](#). *JAMA Intern Med*. 2013;173(10):881-6.