

4. Bladder Management

4.1 STANDARD: Upon admission, each patient will have an assessment of bladder function. A bladder management program will be initiated and followed for all patients taking part in rehabilitation in order to resume regular and complete emptying of the bladder for urinary system health.

Minimum Requirements:

- Facility has a bladder management policy and procedure/guidelines in place
- All appropriate care providers are trained to follow facility policy and procedure/guidelines on bladder management
- All pertinent care providers are trained in appropriate technique and use of adaptive equipment for bladder emptying
- Site-specific bladder management program in place encompassing assessment, intervention and ongoing management
- Staff competency conducted for all direct care providers
- Access to urologic assessment and monitoring as needed

Recommended Resources:

- PVA Consumer Guide Bladder Management Following Spinal Cord Injury: What You Should Know* available for free download <http://tinyurl.com/n67wb8b>
- PVA Clinical Practice Guideline Bladder Management for Adults with Spinal Cord Injury* available for free download <http://tinyurl.com/mqldjq3>
- University of Alabama SCI InfoSheets: Bladder Care and Management <http://tinyurl.com/kbw43ws>

4.2 STANDARD: Staff members will be able to identify urinary complications and provide appropriate intervention.

Minimum Requirements:

- All appropriate care providers are trained to identify signs and symptoms of urinary complications
- Access to ongoing urologic assessment and monitoring to diagnose and develop treatment plans for urinary complications
- Facility has a process in place for measuring and managing outcomes

Recommended Resources

- Institute for Healthcare Improvement: How-to Guide: Prevent Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection* available for free download at <http://tinyurl.com/lwkunag>
- PVA Consumer Guide Bladder Management Following Spinal Cord Injury: What You Should Know* available for free download <http://tinyurl.com/n67wb8b>
- PVA Clinical Practice Guideline Bladder Management for Adults with Spinal Cord Injury* available for free download <http://tinyurl.com/mqldjq3>
- University of Alabama SCI InfoSheets: Bladder Care and Management <http://tinyurl.com/kbw43ws>

THIS TOOL DOES NOT PROVIDE MEDICAL ADVICE. It is intended for informational purposes only. It is not a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Never ignore professional medical advice in seeking treatment because of something you have read in the Toolkit. If you think you may have a medical emergency, immediately dial 911.

4.3 STANDARD: Individuals, their family members and caregivers taking part in inpatient rehabilitation for SCI will receive appropriate education in bladder management techniques to maximize functional independence and minimize secondary health conditions.

Minimum Requirements:

- Family/caregiver/patient training on bladder management techniques and use of adaptive equipment during inpatient rehabilitation
- Family/caregiver/patient training on identification of signs and/or symptoms of urinary complications and possible interventions, including seeking medical attention
- Family/caregiver/patient competency established via verbal recall and/or demonstration

Recommended Resources

- Institute for Healthcare Improvement: How-to Guide: Prevent Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection* <http://tinyurl.com/lwkunag>
- PVA Consumer Guide Bladder Management Following Spinal Cord Injury: What You Should Know* available for free download <http://tinyurl.com/n67wb8b>
- PVA Clinical Practice Guideline Bladder Management for Adults with Spinal Cord Injury* available for free download <http://tinyurl.com/mqldjq3>
- University of Alabama SCI InfoSheets: Bladder Care and Management <http://tinyurl.com/kbw43ws>

* To access, Adobe must be installed on your device

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