

# QI program reduced use of indwelling urinary catheters in MICU by more than 77 percent

October 19 2015

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Many hospitalized patients have an indwelling urinary catheter (IUC), and previous studies have found up to one-third of IUCs are unneeded. A team of researchers from Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York, implemented an intervention that decreased the use of IUCs in patients from 92.3 percent to just 15 percent, representing a 77.3 percent reduction in use.

Researchers implemented a three-step intervention to decrease urinary catheterization rates including an intense education program for the entire healthcare team, a prescribed listing of allowed indications for use, followed by additional step-downs in indication and sonographic bladder scanning to detect [urinary retention](#).

"An intensive educational program with daily focus on appropriateness of IUC use can dramatically reduce use of ICUs in a MICU setting and can reduce catheter-associated [urinary tract infections](#)," said Drs. Pavan Irukulla and Yizhak Kupfer, Maimonides Medical Center lead researchers.

**More information:** Further results will be shared during CHEST 2015 on October 28th, at 1:30 pm in the Exhibit Hall.

Provided by American College of Chest Physicians

Citation: QI program reduced use of indwelling urinary catheters in MICU by more than 77 percent (2015, October 19) retrieved 2 May 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2015-10-qi-indwelling-urinary-catheters-micu.html>

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