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**To what extent does reported practice from nurses in management of indwelling urinary catheters reflect national evidence-based guidelines**

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**Background and Rationale:** Catheter-associated urinary tract infection is a common healthcare concern accounting for 60% of hospital-acquired infections; it is costly and morbid. An estimated 15-25% of hospitalised patients will be catheterised during their stay. Nurses are at the frontline of catheter care, they are responsible for inserting at least 50% of all catheters and also perform the majority of catheter care. However, little is currently known about nurses' practice and the level of education and training available to them in clinical practice.

**Aim:** To explore the level of training and education available for nurses in catheterisation and the extent their reported practice in management of indwelling urinary catheters reflects national evidence-based guidelines.

**Method:** A descriptive study design, using anonymous online survey was conducted. The survey consisted of 53 open and closed questions. 18 items in the survey were developed from the epic3 guidelines to assess nurses' awareness. Nurses were recruited via social media networks. In total, 32 (27, female, 5 male) nurses working in either hospital or acute setting in the United Kingdom (UK) completed the online survey. Open-text responses were analysed using content analysis, whilst closed questions were analysed using descriptive statistics.

**Findings:** The data revealed that overall, nurses had a good level of training as qualified, but there was a lack of training at induction to current workplace. The majority had a good level of awareness of epic3 guidelines in relation to catheter insertion, however there was a lack of knowledge in catheter maintenance and catheter selection such as catheter size selection and when to empty catheter bag. Nurses also felt it would be useful to have a nurse champion for training, knowledge provision, good practice promotion, support and safety.

**Conclusion:** Education and training are key elements in CAUTI prevention and national evidence-based guidelines emphasis on the importance of this. The study has revealed nurses' practice in catheterisation and catheter maintenance and implications for practice are made based on the findings, as well as areas for future research.

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