

Patient Safety Advisory

Veterans Health Administration Warning System Published by VA Central Office

ISSUE # 02 – 005

May 28, 2002

ADDENDUM TO PATIENT SAFETY ADVISORY ISSUED ON FEBRUARY 27, 2002 CONCERNING ALLEGIANCE IRRIGATION KITS

ITEM: It has come to our attention that even the larger size **caps** of the standardized product we suggested in the previous advisory have been incorrectly inserted into the drainage port of larger Foley catheters. This is possible because Foley catheters are not standardized on the inside diameter of the drainage port. Also, there is potential to incorrectly insert **caps** of various brands of urinary drainage bags and **caps** included in various brands of irrigation kits to the drainage port of Foley catheters.

GENERAL INFORMATION: Size of caps of urinary drainage bags and caps included in irrigation kits of various manufacturers are small enough to allow **inadvertent** insertion into the drainage port of Foley catheters, thus resulting in an obstructed Foley catheter and/or bladder.

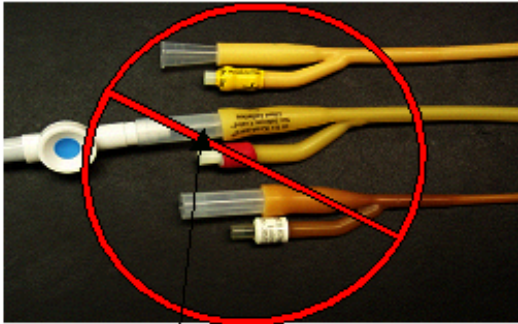
SPECIFIC INCIDENT: The tubing cap of the standardized LSL urinary drainage bag was inadvertently left on and inserted into the drainage port of a Foley catheter. This obstructed the flow of urine from a patient.

SUGGESTION: The National Center for Patient Safety and the VA Medical/Surgical Users' Group are working with the VA National Acquisition Center and vendors to modify the configuration of the caps so that inadvertent insertion is effectively precluded. Until we can find a vendor who is willing to modify the configuration, continue to remind caregivers that blockage/obstruction could occur. Use the attached **WARNING** sheet to distribute with the products.

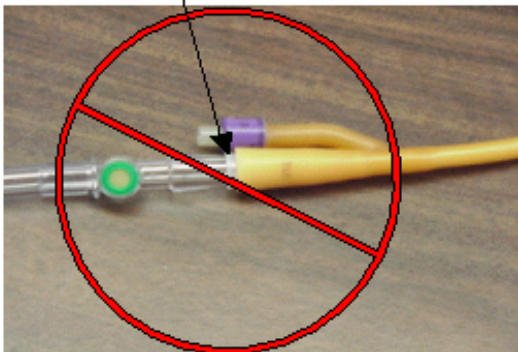
SOURCE: VISN 10

CONTACT: For additional information, please contact:
Mr. Bryanne Patail at NCPS
Phone: 734 930 5890. Fax: 734 930 5877.
E-mail: Bryanne.Patail@med.va.gov.

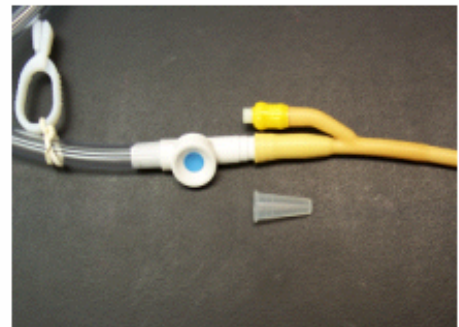
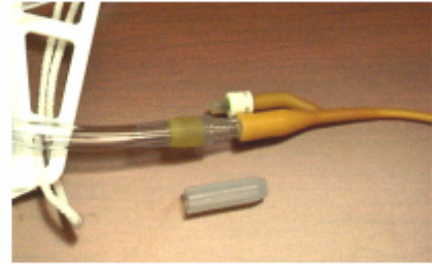
WRONG WAY



NOTE: Cap in Foley



CORRECT WAY



WARNING

**INSURE CAP IS REMOVED BEFORE
INSERTING TUBING OF URINARY
DRAINAGE BAG INTO THE DRAINAGE
PORT OF FOLEY CATHETER**