

# Chapter 21

## Urinary Catheters

# Lesson 21.1

- Define the key terms and key abbreviations in this chapter.
- Explain why urinary catheters are used.
- Describe 2 types of urinary catheters.
- Explain the purpose and rules for catheter care.
- Describe 2 urine drainage systems.

# Lesson 21.1 (Cont.)

- Explain how to re-connect a catheter and drainage tubing.
- Explain how to apply a condom catheter.
- Perform the procedures described in this chapter.
- Explain how to promote PRIDE in the person, the family, and yourself.

# Catheters

- A catheter is a tube used to drain or inject fluid through a body opening.
  - Inserted through the urethra into the bladder, a urinary catheter drains urine.
  - An indwelling catheter (retention or Foley catheter) is left in the bladder.
- Catheterization is the process of inserting a catheter.

# Catheters (Cont.)

- Catheters are used:
  - By persons too weak or disabled to use the bedpan, urinal, commode, or toilet.
  - To protect wounds and pressure injuries from contact with urine.
  - To allow hourly urinary output measurements
  - As a last resort for incontinence
    - Catheters do not treat the cause of incontinence.
- Persons with catheters are at high risk for infection.

# Drainage Systems

- A closed drainage system is used for indwelling catheters.
  - Nothing can enter the system from the catheter to the drainage bag.
  - The urinary system is sterile.
- The drainage system has tubing and a drainage bag.
  - The bag hangs from the bed frame, chair, or wheelchair. It must not touch the floor.
  - The bag is always kept lower than the person's bladder.

# Drainage Systems (Cont.)

- If the drainage system is disconnected accidentally, tell the nurse at once.
  - Do not touch the ends of the catheter or tubing.
  - Practice hand hygiene. Put on gloves.
  - Wipe the end of the tube with an antiseptic wipe.
  - Wipe the end of the catheter with another antiseptic wipe.
  - Do not put the ends down.
    - Do not touch the ends after you clean them.
  - Connect the tubing to the catheter.
  - Discard the wipes into a biohazard bag.
  - Remove the gloves. Practice hand hygiene.

# Drainage Systems (Cont.)

- Condom catheters (external catheters, Texas catheters, urinary sheaths)
  - Condom catheters are often used for incontinent men.
  - A condom catheter is a soft sheath that slides over the penis.
  - Condom catheters are changed daily after perineal care.
  - To apply a condom catheter:
    - Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
    - Thoroughly wash the penis with soap and water.
    - Dry the penis before applying the catheter.
  - Never use adhesive tape to secure catheters.