

# USING INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY AS A KEY TO FOLLOWING EXPERT CLINICAL GUIDELINES

How can the WatchCare<sup>®</sup> Incontinence Management System help hospitals achieve the experts' guidance around incontinence care, protect patients' skin and help prevent costly pressure injuries?

#### **NPIAP**

#### WHAT IS THE GUIDANCE?

The National Pressure Injury Advisory Panel (NPIAP) has published guidelines related to the assessment, diagnosis, prevention & treatment of pressure injuries. In their 2019 recommendations, they recommend that "clinicians implement a skin care regime that includes cleansing the skin promptly after episodes of incontinence."

#### WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

If clinicians don't know when incontinence events are occurring, then how can they provide prompt care? Use of a system that can alert caregivers to an incontinence event in a discrete manner, can allow them to prioritize care. It also enables a caregiver to be prepared for incontinence care before entering the patient room, avoiding the unnecessary back and forth to linen carts or supply areas.



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#### WOCN

The Journal of Wound Ostomy Continence Nursing published in December 2020 an evidence and consensus-based algorithm: Interventions Post Catheter Removal (iPCaRe). This guidance was issued because "despite advances in the prevention of catheter-acquired urinary tract infections achieved by programs that include removal of the indwelling urinary catheter at the earliest possible time, evidence guiding bladder and incontinence management strategies following discontinuation of a catheter is sparse."

#### WHAT IS THE GUIDANCE?

Consensus statements recognize underpads as a first-line intervention for absorption of urinary incontinence.

"A consensus statement notes that underpads should be changed as soon as possible and that users should consider use of an underpad with embedded technology alerting staff to episodes of urinary incontinence."

#### WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Catheter associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI) was identified as one of the original eight CMS Never Events. Multiple organizations and societies have produced guidelines or tools for prevention of CAUTIs. While research indicates that these preventive programs are successful at reducing CAUTI levels, clinical experience clearly demonstrates that these programs may produce unintended adverse consequences related to early indwelling catheter removal such as moisture-associated skin damage and urinary incontinence.'

While we prevent one never event, we potentially move towards another, as incontinence and incontinence associated dermatitis (IAD) increase the risk of developing a sacral pressure injury by 3.56 times.<sup>2</sup> Utilization of underpads that are embedded with technology alerting staff to episodes of urinary incontinence – like the WatchCare<sup>®</sup> system – help us address incontinence events as soon as they occur to help stave off IAD and prevent pressure injuries from developing.

For more information, please contact your local distributor or Hillrom sales representative at 800-445-3730.

#### hillrom.com

References

- <sup>1</sup> Gray, Mikel; Beeson, Terrie; Kent, Dea; Mackey, Dianne; McNichol, Laurie; Thompson, Donna L.; Engberg, Sandra Interventions Post Catheter Removal (iPCaRe) in the Acute Care Setting, Journal of Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing: November/December 2020 - Volume 47 - Issue 6 - p 601-618 doi: 10.1097/WON.0000000000000704
- <sup>2</sup> Gray M, Giuliano K. J Wound Ostomy Continence Nurs. 2018 Jan; 45(1): 63-67.

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### HOW CAN THE WATCHCARE<sup>®</sup> SYSTEM HELP?

The WatchCare Incontinence Management System can help caregivers achieve the experts' guidance by:

- Utilizing our smart pad which has all the necessary functionality of a breathable, high absorbency, moisture-wicking underpad but with the added benefit of embedded moisture detecting technology
- This moisture detecting technology detects the presence of an incontinence event, it communicates back to the sensors in the bed. The bed initiates a silent, discrete visual alert to the care team by lighting up at the foot of the bed and through the nurse call system. These alerts allow the caregiver to be aware of when an incontinence event has occurred and address it through prioritized care as quickly as possible.

All of this can be built into our VersaCare<sup>®</sup>, Centrella<sup>®</sup> or Progressa<sup>®</sup> beds – so nurses can provide prioritized, dignified incontinence care to patients.

