

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is Catheter Care Awareness Week?

Catheter Care Awareness Week is a regional initiative led by the Health Innovation Network (HIN) encouraging all south London organisations to plan and take part in activities relating to urinary catheter care. These activities aim to:

- Reduce unnecessary patient harm resulting from urinary catheters
- Raise awareness about catheter problems
- Encourage individuals in healthcare to develop the skills and confidence to take personal responsibility for improving catheter care
- Empower patients and encourage self-care

Catheter Care Awareness Week is part of a much wider **Catheter Care Project** aimed at reducing catheter associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs) in south London.

2. When is Catheter Care Awareness Week?

Catheter Care Awareness Week takes place this year from the 17th to the 23rd June to coincide with **World Continence Awareness Week**. We have chosen this date to ensure that Catheter Care Awareness Week is an integral part of continence promotion and to encourage interventions other than catheterisation to manage incontinence. Prolonged and unnecessary catheterisations are leading causes of continence problems, especially in relation to CAUTIs and development of overactive bladder symptoms.

3. Who can participate?

Catheter Care Awareness Week is for anyone working in the health and social care system in south London.

Our goal, which we are championing throughout Catheter Care Awareness Week, is to stop urinary catheters causing harm to patients and to improve patients' wellbeing and recovery. We're also using the week to raise general awareness about catheter problems and to enhance clinicians' knowledge, as well as encouraging people and organisations to get involved with the project.

4. Why should I get involved?

Catheterisation and related complications can cause serious harm to patients and we must work collaboratively to protect our patients from unnecessary harm and suffering. The HIN-PSC estimates that there are 152,000 inpatients catheterised annually across South London (18.8% of admissions), and of these over 9,000 develop CAUTIs. The estimated cost of excess bed-days alone stands at £15.8 million.

26% of catheters inserted in the Emergency Department nationally have been found to be inappropriate and one third of catheter days found to be unnecessary (Tiwari et al 2012). CAUTIs increase the risk of delirium, falls, hospitalisation, subsequent re-admission, and increased mortality (Hooten et al 2010; Kilonzo et al 2014; Loveday et al 2014). Urinary catheterisation therefore has a financial cost as well as a devastating impact on wellbeing, particularly in the elderly.



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5. How much time do I need to commit to Catheter Care Awareness Week?

There are no rules about your time commitment; it depends entirely on your capacity. You may wish to commit to a one-hour activity, a day, a few days, or the entire week.

6. What else can I do to help out?

There are a number of ways in which you can help us:

- Share our CAUTI animation: www.vimeo.com/healthinnovationnetwork/cathetercare
- Follow @HINSouthLondon and tweet us with **#cathetercare**
- Use our Digital Pack to advertise **Catheter Care Awareness Week**. Do work with your communications departments, local papers and your network of contacts

7. Who can I contact if I have more questions?

Send us an email at hin.southlondon@nhs.net and we will see what we can do to help you.

8. What is the Health Innovation Network?

The Health Innovation Network is the Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) for South London, one of 15 AHSNs across England.

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As the only bodies that connect NHS and academic organisations, local authorities, the third sector and industry, we are catalysts that create the right conditions to facilitate change across whole health and social care economies, with a clear focus on improving outcomes for patients.

This means we are uniquely placed to identify and spread health innovation at pace and scale; driving the adoption and spread of innovative ideas and technologies across large populations.