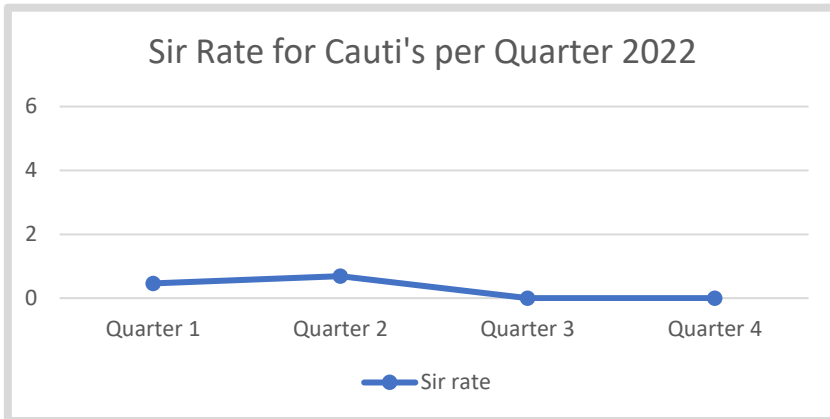


What is a catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI)?

A catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI) occurs when germs (usually bacteria) enter the urinary tract through the urinary catheter and cause infection. CAUTIs have been associated with increased morbidity, mortality, healthcare costs, and length of stay. The risk of CAUTI can be reduced by ensuring that catheters are used only when needed and removed as soon as possible; that catheters are placed using proper aseptic technique; and that the closed sterile drainage system is maintained.



What is a Sir rate? The Sir rate compares the actual number of HAI's with the predicted number of HAI's. The predicted number is an estimate based on national baseline data. Target is to have a Sir rate < 1.0

Steps taken to prevent Cauti's at TRMC:

- Insert catheters only for appropriate indications and leave in place for only as long as needed
- Consider external catheters in patients without urinary retention or bladder blockage
- Perform hand hygiene before and after insertion or any manipulation of the catheter device or site
- Ensure staff are trained and know the correct technique of catheter insertion and maintenance
- Properly secure the catheter after insertion to prevent movement
- Consider using the smallest size catheter possible to minimize urethral trauma
- Utilize a bladder scanner to assess urine volume when possible
- Maintain a closed drainage system
- Keep catheter and collecting tubing free from kinks and loops
- Keep the urine bag below the level of the bladder at all times
- Empty the urine bag regularly using a separate collecting container for each patient
- Prevent the drainage spigot from coming in contact with nonsterile equipment
- Educate the patient on the FAQs about "Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infection"