

# The Case of the Resident With a Foley Catheter Who Had a Bowel Movement

Improving Skin Care and MDRO Prevention in Long-Term Care



## The Case

A 70-year-old female resident is scheduled to receive a bed bath. While preparing for the bed bath, the certified nursing assistant (CNA) notices that the resident has had a bowel movement. The resident also has an indwelling urinary catheter.



## The Challenge

The CNA must assist the resident with pericare after stool incontinence, ensuring the catheter and skin are appropriately cared for.

## The Error

The CNA wipes stool off the catheter by wiping toward the meatus. The stool on the skin is also removed by wiping toward the meatus. These actions push the stool toward the urethral opening, putting the resident at increased risk for a urinary tract infection.

## Knowledge Check Question

1. How should the CNA have cleaned the stool from the catheter and skin? *(Discuss steps)*

## Answer

**Step One:** Using a soapy washcloth, gently wash around the urethral opening where the catheter is inserted.

**Step Two:** Wipe the catheter away from the meatus with a soapy washcloth. Use additional washcloths as needed to avoid recontamination of the catheter. Continue cleaning stool from skin with soapy washcloths, only wiping away from meatus.

AHRQ Pub. No. 25(26)-0066  
October 2025