



Practice Briefs

What's the best procedure to wash leg bags (catheter bags) that are used intermittently?

Begin by ensuring leg bag is labeled as reusable (reuse for single resident only). Manufacturer's instructions should be followed for products and methods of cleaning all parts of the reusable urinary leg bag. Follow these steps:

1. Use a basin for cleaning the urinary bag. Do NOT use this basin for other things. Always clean the basin thoroughly first, then mix a one part vinegar to three parts water solution after making sure the basin is clean. An example of the solution would be one (1) cup white vinegar with three (3) cups water, which would equal four (4) cups of solution.
2. Perform hand hygiene and apply gloves.
3. Wash the outside of the leg bag with soap and water.
4. Use a syringe to rinse the inside of the leg bag.
5. Soak the leg bag at least 30 minutes in 1:3 white vinegar solution (1 cup vinegar to 3 cups water). A fresh vinegar solution MUST be made each time. Make sure that the inside surfaces that touch urine are cleansed by solution by agitating for approximately 2 minutes.
6. Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene. After the minimum 30 minute soak, perform hand hygiene, put on gloves and rinse the leg bag thoroughly with clear water. Hang the bag to dry.
7. Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene.
8. Before reconnecting the bag make sure to cleanse the connections with an alcohol wipe.



Based on recommendations from USDA HHS Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Retrieved from <https://www.ahrq.gov/professionals/quality-patient-safety/quality-resources/tools/cauti-ltc/modules/resources/tools/prevent/leg-bags-faqs.html> Accessed 9/6/18.

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