Algorithm for Using External Female Urinary Catheter

Is patient on bedrest with limited ability to use bedpan?

- Yes
  - Does patient meet one of the following criteria?
    - Urinary incontinence causing alterations in skin integrity
    - To facilitate removal or avoid insertion of indwelling urinary catheters
  - Yes
    - Does patient have any of the following EXCLUSIONS?
      - Experiencing urinary retention
      - Allergic to Latex
      - Experiencing skin breakdown at the site of the catheter
      - Agitated, combative, or uncooperative and might remove the external catheter
      - Recent surgery of the external urogenital tract
      - Experiencing frequent episodes of bowel incontinence (without a fecal management system in place)
      - Experiencing moderate/heavy menstruation and cannot use tampon
    - Yes
      - Not recommended for use
    - No
      - Not recommended for use
  - No
    - Not recommended for use

- No
  - Notify MOWS to obtain catheter
  - Call House Supervisor for off hours

Nurse Care Tips

- Assess patient’s skin and perform perineal care prior to placement of each external female catheter
- Replace the catheter every 12 hours or when soiled
- Ensure the catheter remains in the correct position after turning and remove prior to ambulation
- Place to 40 mmHg continuous suction
- Change suction canister and tubing every 24 hours
- Do not use barrier cream on perineum when catheter is in use