

Proper techniques
and best practice guidance

What is a dependent loop?

A dependent loop is formed by poorly positioned drainage tubing falling below the level of the collection device. Within this tubing, urine or liquid can accumulate. The best way to avoid dependent loops is to use the sheet clamp to position the tubing in a straight line to the collection device—optimizing urine flow. If there is one CAUTI prevention measure you can take, is to make sure NO catheter and drain bag are hung with a dependent loop.

Urine in a dependent loop is a high pressure gradient

The bladder cannot empty to
a high pressure resulting in:

- Leakage around the catheter (also known as catheter bypassing)
- The patient having a sense of a full bladder

Best practice tips:

- Use the sheet clamp to position the tubing in a straight line along bed
- When using a urine meter, always engage the tubing into the kickstand. This will promote proper drainage
- Position the urine drain bag below the bladder
- Manual manipulation of the tubing will clear urine from the dependent loop and aid in emptying the residual urine in the bladder

