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Three-Year Study Establishes “Best Practice” for the Prevention of Urinary Tract Infections.

Redmond, WA April 18, 2000 – According to a recent three-year study published as a supplement to the March 2000 American Journal of Nursing (AJN) magazine, utilization of a bladder scanner is a “critical factor” in the development of a program to reduce urinary tract infections.¹

Urinary tract infections (UTIs) are the most commonly occurring nosocomial infections (constituting 40% of these types of infections). About one million patients in acute care hospitals annually develop nosocomial UTIs, and about 80% of these are associated with the use of indwelling urinary catheters.²⁻⁶

Catheter-associated urinary tract infections are also associated with an increase in mortality. Patients with these types of infections are three times more likely to die during hospitalization than other patients.²

To reduce UTIs, it is critical to assess the need for urethral catheterization prior to catheter placement. The study showed that in 21% of the cases, placement of a urethral catheter was unjustified. Each day that a catheter remains in place, 5% of patients develop a UTI. Therefore, it is important to assess the need for ongoing catheter use.

The study concluded that in 47% of the patients, ongoing catheter use was unjustified.⁷

The BladderScan™ instrument from Diagnostic Ultrasound provides a noninvasive means for assessing bladder volume and, thus, the need for catheterization.

In the month before the introduction of the BladderScan instrument, the inpatient rehab unit utilized 118 straight catheter kits; in the month after the BladderScan was introduced, that number dropped to two. As a result, the catheter-associated UTI rate among trauma patients in the study dropped from 10 infections per 1,000 device days to 5.4 infections per 1,000 device days (more than a 40% reduction of UTIs).

Overall, the use of the ultrasound bladder scanner was a critical factor in the success of the urinary tract infection-reduction project. It enabled clinicians to noninvasively and accurately evaluate the need for catheterization. The project supports this as a “best clinical practice” approach.

About Diagnostic Ultrasound

Diagnostic Ultrasound Corporation is a rapidly-growing manufacturer and supplier of medical instruments with an annual sales revenue of \$17 million in 1999 and 130 employees. The company serves customers through its own sales organization in the USA and an international distributor network covering more than 30 countries worldwide. Information about Diagnostic Ultrasound and its products can be found at the corporate web site <http://www.dxu.com> or by contacting Diagnostic Ultrasound at 18109 NE 76th Street, Redmond, WA 98052, tel: (800) 331-2313 or (425) 867-1348, fax: (425) 883-2896.

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Note to Editor: For a reprint of the discussed article or footnoted references, contact Diagnostic Ultrasound Corp.

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