

**It is helpful if hospital administrators and clinical chiefs take on personal leadership roles in quality improvement initiatives. With some extra effort, they can help build powerful support for the catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI) prevention project. Ideally, one member of the executive leadership team will be primarily responsible for overseeing the CAUTI initiative at your hospital. In our experience, this often is the chief nursing executive.**

1. To engage leadership

- Prepare and present a business case to help convince leadership that the time and resources for implementing the new practice will be worth it.
  - The [CAUTI Cost Calculator](#) estimates your hospital's costs due to CAUTI. It can be used to estimate both the current and projected costs after a hypothetical intervention to reduce catheter use.
- Be sure leadership receives monthly CAUTI rates and catheter use data.

2. Ways that leadership can show their support

- Mention in meetings and other staff encounters that these prevention activities are a reflection of the hospital's mission;
- Stop by and listen in to a reporting session on the initiative, thus boosting the team's sense of purpose;
- Include updates on the project's progress in their hospital-wide newsletter and online communications;
- Make the degree of a person's support of quality initiatives a regular element of employee performance reviews;
- Top supervisors can provide backing when those leading an initiative run up against immovable roadblocks.

3. Further reading suggestions:

- Kotter J. [Leading change: why transformation efforts fail](#). *Harv Bus Rev*. 1995;59-67.
- Saint S, Kowalski CP, Banaszak-Holl J, Forman J, Damschroder L, Krein SL. [The importance of leadership in preventing healthcare-associated infection: results of a multisite qualitative study](#). *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol*. 2010;31:901-7.