PURPOSE:
To keep catheter patent and to irrigate bladder with continuous antibacterial fluid to prevent infection or an obstruction.

CONSIDERATIONS:
1. Clean technique is required for irrigation.
2. Physician orders are needed for solution to be used, rate of infusion and how long continuous irrigation will be needed.
3. Note expiration date of irrigant solution.
4. Irrigation tubing should be changed every 48 hours.
5. Be sure that irrigation tubing fits correctly into irrigation solution container.

EQUIPMENT:
- Irrigation solution
- Irrigation tubing
- 3-way (lumen) Foley catheter
- Sterile catheter plug
- Catheter tray (optional)
- Gloves
- Impervious trash bag

PROCEDURE:
1. Adhere to Standard Precautions.
2. Explain procedure to patient.
3. Assemble equipment.
4. Insert 3-way catheter, if it is not already in place, and plug smallest lumen with sterile catheter plug.
6. Take catheter plug out of smallest lumen; take irrigation tubing cover off and insert tubing into smallest lumen. Open clamp and set rate of infusion.
7. To replace irrigation solution container:
   a. Clamp tubing.
   b. Remove tubing spike from old container.
   c. Remove cover from new container.
   d. Insert spike into new container.
   e. Hang new container and set rate of infusion.
   f. Container should be marked with date and time hung.
8. If continuous irrigation is discontinued, the lumen can be plugged with sterile catheter plug.
9. Discard soiled supplies in appropriate containers.

AFTER CARE:
1. Document in patient’s record:
   a. Irrigation solution, type and amount infused and returned.
   b. Excess amount returned is counted as urine output.
   c. Patient’s response to procedure.
   d. Instructions given to patient/caregiver.