DO NOT FORGET · THE SHORT CHECKLIST



Male urethral catheterisation

Aseptic insertion of an indwelling urethral catheter in a male patient to drain the bladder or monitor urine output.

EM Orbit

Patient reference	Date	Time	Completed by

The 5 steps that must not be missed

- [ ] BEFORE
In pelvic trauma, examine for blood at the meatus and perineal haematoma
If present, do not pass a urethral catheter; refer to urology (EMORBIT-CP-64).

- [ ] DURING
Do not force the catheter against resistance
Forcing can create a false passage. Stop and seek senior or urology help.

- [ ] DURING
Do not inflate the balloon until urine has drained and the catheter is inserted to the bifurcation

- [ ] DURING
If the patient reports pain during inflation, stop, deflate the balloon and advance further before re-trying
Pain suggests the balloon is in the urethra.

- [ ] DURING
Reduce the foreskin to its normal position
Leaving it retracted causes paraphimosis.



The short list: an aid to memory, not the whole procedure. The full checklist is at the QR code. It does not replace your local protocol or your clinical judgement.
EM Orbit · Emergency medicine, in one orbit · proc-urethral-catheter-quick · the short checklist