Management of Postpartum Urinary Retention Flow Chart

Diagnosis

- Not passed urine within 6 hours of delivery
- Not passed urine 6 hours after catheter removal
- Passing frequent small amount of urine
- Lower abdominal or suprapubic pain

↓

Confirm urinary retention (bladder scan)
> 500ml of urine

↓

Conservative measures

1. Adequate analgesia
2. Support with mobilisation
3. Privacy
4. Warm bath

Insert in and out urethral catheter and record residual urine volume

↓

Insert in and out urethral catheter and record residual urine volume

↓

Voiding satisfactorily within 6 hours of catheter removal

↓

- Midstream urine for MC&S
- Discharge home

If unable to pass urine 4 hours after residual urine measurement
OR
Discomfort due to bladder distension
OR
Voided volume < 150ml and / or residual urine > 150ml:

1. Insert size 12 Foley catheter and record volume drained after 15 minutes
2. Send catheter specimen for MC & S

↓

If residual volume drained is:

- < 700ml – remove catheter after 24 hours
- > 700ml – remove catheter after 48 hours

↓

Intermittent self catheterisation (ISC) 4-6 hourly until able to void and residual < 150ml
OR
If ISC not feasible, an indwelling catheter will be inserted for 48 hours with a flip-flow valve
Follow up at Lancaster Suite within 5 days