

Going Home with an Indwelling Drainage Catheter

Name: _____

What is a drainage catheter?

A catheter or tube was inserted to remove fluid that has collected. Sometimes the doctor may want you to go home with the catheter in place so you can drain the fluid when you need to.

How do I manage the drain?

- The nurse will arrange a Home Care Nurse to come to your home
- The nurse will show you and your family how to look after the catheter
- Drain the fluid when your abdomen is feeling full and distended

To start the drainage:

- Wash your hands
- Connect the drainage bag
- Open the stopcock by turning it so it is in a straight line with the tubing
- Place the bag lower than the insertion site
- The fluid will drain by gravity
- Put the bag on a towel or in a bucket in case it spills

To stop the drainage:

- Wash your hands
- Close the stopcock by turning the stopcock across the tubing
- Disconnect the drainage bag from your drainage catheter
- Attach caps to ends of the catheter and the drainage bag

Note: Record the amount of drainage. Your doctor wants to know how much drainage you are having.

Home Care:

- The homecare nurse will call to set up an appointment
- Your appointment should be in 2 to 3 days after the procedure
- The nurse will change your dressing and answer any questions
- Your dressing must be changed when it is soiled
- The fixation device should be changed at least once per week

What happens after you finish your drainage?

- You may feel dizzy if you get up too fast
- Move slowly at first
- Check your bandage often for fluid leakage
- If you see bleeding, apply pressure, call your doctor

What should I do if I have pain?

- You may take acetaminophen (Tylenol) and Ibuprofen (Advil) unless your doctor or nurse tells you not to
- Be sure to follow the directions on the medicine bottle

Call your doctor if you have:

- Bleeding that does not stop
- A fever greater than 38° C or 100.4° F, or chills
- Increasing abdominal pain
- Redness at the insertion site
- Thick drainage from the insertion site

Contact your doctor's office for a follow-up appointment.

Questions or Concerns:

Health Link BC: 811

(604) 215-2400

Hearing Impaired: 1 866 889-4700

Or, contact your physician

In an Emergency: Call 911 or go to the hospital emergency room