

<i>Client:</i>	<i>Date:</i>
<i>Clinician:</i>	

You have been discharged home with an indwelling urinary catheter (also called a Foley catheter). A catheter is a thin, flexible tube that drains urine from your bladder. The most important thing to remember is that you want to prevent infection. Always wash your hands before handling your catheter bag or tubing.

Draining the Bedside Bag

- Wash your hands
- Hold the drainage tube over a toilet or measuring container
- Unclamp the tube and let the bag drain
- Don't touch the tip of the drainage tube or let it touch the toilet or container

Cleaning the Drainage Tube

- When the bag is empty, clean the tip of the drainage tube with an alcohol wipe
- Clamp the tube and reinsert the tube into the pocket on the drainage bag

Cleaning Your Skin and Tubing

- Clean the skin near the catheter with soap and water
- Wash your genital area from front to back
- Wash the catheter tubing in the direction away from your body
- Don't try to remove the catheter by yourself
- You may shower with the catheter in place

Emptying a Leg Bag

- Wash your hands
- Remove the stopper on the bag
- Drain the bag into the toilet or a measuring container. Don't let the tip of the drainage tube touch anything, including your fingers
- Clean the tip of the drainage tube with alcohol and replace the stopper

When to Call Your Nurse or Doctor

- Chills or fever above 100.0°F
- Leakage around the catheter insertion site
- Increased spasms (uncontrollable twitching) in your legs, abdomen, or bladder
- Burning in the urinary tract, penis, or genital area
- Nausea and vomiting
- Aching in the lower back
- Cloudy or bloody urine; sediment or mucus in the urine; foul-smelling urine

Adapted from Krames On-Line

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Contact the on-call nurse if you are experiencing any change in your current health condition.
For ALL emergencies requiring IMMEDIATE medical attention, call 911.