



A program of Choices Healthcare

Foley Catheter Care

A Foley catheter drains urine continuously from the bladder using a plastic tube that drains into a collection bag. The catheter is held inside the bladder with a small balloon that is filled with saline. The catheter helps to eliminate the need for the patient to use the bathroom. If the patient has a Foley catheter, you will want to consider the following:

- Wash your hands with soap and water before and after handling the catheter, tubing, or bag.
- Always keep the collection bag below the level of the bladder.
- Check regularly to ensure that there are no kinks or loops in the catheter tubing and that the patient is not lying on top of the tubing.
- Do not pull or tug on the catheter.
- Do not attach the catheter to the bedding or patients' clothing.
- Wash around the catheter entry site with soap and water daily and if the patient has a bowel movement.
- Do not use powder around the catheter entry site.
- Periodically check the skin around the catheter entry site for signs of irritation, redness, tenderness, swelling, or drainage.
- Be sure to offer the patient liquids to drink, as tolerated.

The Hospice nurse will change the catheter and drainage bag as often as needed. However, please call Hospice if you notice any of the following:

- Blood or cloudiness in the urine that was not there before.
- Foul odor
- Little to no urine in the bag after eight hours
- Irritation, redness, swelling, drainage, or leakage around the catheter entry site
- Fever, pain in the abdomen, or pain at the catheter entry site

To empty the catheter bag:

- You will need to put on gloves and remove the drainage tube from its sleeve.
- Point the tube into an empty, clean container.
- Unclamp the drainage tube but try not to touch the end of the tube to any surface when you are emptying the collection bag.
- Let the urine drain into the container until the collection bag is empty, then re-clamp the tube.
- Clean the tip of the tube with an alcohol swab and reinsert it into the sleeve.
- Empty the container into the toilet and clean the container.
- Remove your gloves and wash your hands.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call the 24-hour number at (877) 506-0149.