



## **HOW TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR URINARY CATHETER**

- There may be *normal* yellowish sticky substance found in small amount around urethral meatus/catheter. There is no need to worry about it.
- There may be some whitish flakes in the urinary tube. This is due to phosphate crystals and is a *normal* finding. Do not worry.
- Because of the urinary catheter, there may be some crampy feeling or urgency to pass urine. There may also be brief pelvic or rectal pressure. This is a normal response of bladder to the presence of urinary catheter and is called bladder spasms. It can also occasionally cause urine to squirt out of penis.
- If there is small amount of leak around catheter but the catheter tube is draining well, then do not worry. However, if there is a lot of leak around the catheter and the catheter tube is not draining at all, then the catheter might be blocked and you should inform the doctor.
- Some urine can normally come out around the urinary catheter, especially while passing stools.
- The urine bag should always be kept below body level
- The tip of penis (urethral opening at the site of entry of urethral catheter) should be cleaned with soap and water twice daily. Rinse well.
- Avoid sudden jerk/tug of catheter. Take care while turning in bed or changing positions.
- A latex (yellow) catheter can be safely kept for 3 weeks before need for change. A silicone catheter (transparent) can be kept for a longer period.
- To empty urine bag, open the stop-cap and drain urine into commode. Do not disconnect tube from catheter to drain the bag. Securely close the stop-cap at all other times. Measure the urine in a measured bottle if advised by the doctor.

For emergency, call your doctor or visit the hospital emergency

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