IMPORTANT

If your child is taking anti-spasm medication, do not give it the morning of removal of catheter as he/she may find it difficult to pass urine after removal of catheter.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

Urine not draining – ensure that your child is taking enough drinks and that the tube is not kinked. Also make sure the bag is kept below the level of the bladder to keep urine draining.

Urine leaking around the catheter – ensure that the bag is not too full or pulling on the catheter. Also check for kinks or tube blockage as this may cause the leak. If your child is constipated it might also cause leakage. Therefore it is important to monitor their bowel habit.

Blood in the urine – It is important to keep the catheter securely taped to avoid pulling as this can cause bleeding. If you notice blood in your child’s urine encourage your child to drink more. If this continues seek medical help/advice.

Your child complains of pain/spasms – your child might complain of tummy pain or pain in the penis or bottom area. Encourage them to take a large drink at once. If your child is prescribed anti-spasm medicine give as instructed by your pharmacist.

Your child’s urine becomes smelly or cloudy – increase your child’s drinks accordingly. If your child develops a fever or becomes unwell, go to your GP.

Catheter has fallen out – take your child to your GP or your local hospital for re-insertion of another catheter.

For more information on SUPRAPUBLIC CATHETER CARE please contact:
Urology Nurse Specialists
Our Lady’s Children’s Hospital Crumlin 014096100 Ext 6686/6947
Locardia Nyamurowa: Bleep 8687 or Liz Boyce: Bleep 8686

Remember: Ask your nurse if you are unsure about anything about your child’s care.

Additional instructions

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A suprapubic catheter (SPC) is a tube that goes into the bladder through the abdominal wall to drain urine from the bladder. It is held in place by a small balloon on the inside or a stitch to the skin.

**CARE FOR YOUR CHILD’S SPC AT HOME**

- **Hand hygiene** – A catheter associated urinary tract infection occurs when germs enter the urinary tract through the catheter and cause infection. Good hand hygiene can reduce the risk of infections. Always wash your hands before and after handling the catheter, emptying the drainage bags or after emptying the bladder using the valve. Also make sure the drainage bag is kept lower than your child’s bladder. This ensures that urine does not drain back into the bladder and create an infection in the bladder or kidneys.

- **Site care** – Using a clean wash cloth in warm soapy water, clean the surrounding skin, gently removing any crusting. Rinse the skin with clean water and pat dry with a clean towel. Do not use scented soaps or talc powder.

- **General hygiene** – Your child can shower as usual using non-perfumed, non-coloured soap.

- You will be given 2 spare catheters (the same size and a size smaller). If your child’s catheter falls out, **do not attempt to pass a new catheter**. Take the 2 spare catheters to your GP or local A&E for re-insertion of catheter.

**EMPTYING YOUR CHILD’S BLADDER**

Your child’s catheter will be attached to either a:

- **Leg bag**: drainage bag that is strapped to the child’s leg and collects urine. The bag will need to be emptied at regular intervals.

- **Flip flo valve**: urine collects in the bladder, which can be emptied at regular intervals by releasing the valve.

**EMPTYING THE DRAINAGE BAG**

- Wash your hands.
- Sit or stand your child near the toilet.
- Open the valve at the bottom of the bag.
- Avoid the valve from touching the toilet.
- Empty the bag in the toilet or use a jug.
- Close the valve. Dry valve with dry tissue.
- Wash your hands.

**EMPTYING THE BLADDER (flip flo valve)**: empty as instructed by your doctor or nurse.

- Wash your hands.
- Sit or stand your child near the toilet.
- Open the valve, drain urine into the toilet or into a jug or container which is kept for this purpose.
- When the stream stops, close the valve. Dry the valve with a dry tissue.
- Wash your hands.

**TYPES OF DRAINAGE BAGS**

- Daytime leg bag is attached to the SPC. These are changed weekly.
- Overnight drainage bag is attached to the leg bag. These are changed daily.

**REMEMBER: TO MINIMISE THE RISK OF INFECTION, DO NOT REMOVE THE LEG BAG WHEN ATTACHING THE NIGHT BAG.**