Home Care of Urinary Drainage Tubes

Types of Tubes

<table>
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<tr>
<th>NAME of TUBE</th>
<th>PLACEMENT</th>
<th>PURPOSE</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Nephrostomy Tube</td>
<td>A tube placed into the kidney.</td>
<td>To drain urine out of the kidney into a collection bag or device. The tube is stitched into place and taped to the skin.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Ureteral Stent/Tube</td>
<td>A tube placed into one or both of the ureters.</td>
<td>To drain urine, splint ureters, to help healing, or to prevent blockage from swelling after surgery.</td>
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<td>3. Supra-pubic Tube</td>
<td>A tube placed through the abdomen into the bladder.</td>
<td>Keep bladder empty and to reduce pulling on the wound.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Urethral Tube/Catheter</td>
<td>A tube placed through the urethra into the bladder.</td>
<td>Keep bladder empty and to reduce pulling on the wound.</td>
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Management

Drainage Bag Method
- **Daytime** – Connect tube to a small drainage bag attached to the leg. A piece of stockinette or sock can be placed on the leg first for comfort with the rubber straps.
- **Nighttime** – Connect tube to a bedside drainage bag. Check the tubing to make sure there are no kinks.
  - The drainage bag (either leg or bedside type) should **always** be lower than where the tube is inserted into the body.
  - Practice hooking up the drainage bags before you leave the hospital.

Double Diaper Method
- Place a diaper on your child.
- Place the end of the tube into a second diaper. Put this diaper over the first diaper. This prevents any bowel movements from touching the end of the tube.
- Change one or both diapers as needed.
- Check the tubing often to make sure it is not kinked.

Taping the Tube
- Replace tape when not secured to the skin.
- Allow enough slack on the tube so that it does not pull where the tube enters the body.

Irrigation
It may be necessary to flush tube with a special fluid to allow it to drain properly. The health care team will give you instructions for irrigation depending on the type of tube your child has.

Bathing
- Your child may take a shower.
- If your child takes a bath, do **not** put the tube under water.

Call the Urologist if your child has a:
- Fever
- Abdominal (tummy) or side pain
- Change in color or odor of urine
- No urine, or a decrease in urine draining into the bag

If your child’s tube falls out, immediately call your health care team.

Phone numbers:
Daytime: (215) 590-2754
Night and weekends: (215) 590-1000 and ask to speak to the Urology doctor on call.