

After Urinary Catheter Removal

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A urinary catheter is a thin tube to drain urine (pee) from your bladder. Your urinary catheter was taken out of your bladder today.

What can I expect?

You may have these symptoms for the next 48 hours (2 days):

- Burning and/or stinging when you pee
- Having to pee more often and/or needing to pee right away
- Leaking or not being able to hold your pee in
 - › Unless you had this problem before the catheter was put in, this should get better over time.
- Blood in your pee

If you are in the hospital:

- Tell your nurse if you have blood in your pee.
- This is common after having a catheter removed, and after certain surgeries (like TURP and TURBT). It should go away over time.
- If you have a lot of bleeding or bleeding that is not getting better, you may need treatment.

If you have any of these symptoms for more than 48 hours:

If you are in the hospital:

- Tell a member of your health care team.

If you have left the hospital:

- Call your primary health care provider (family doctor or nurse practitioner).

What can I do to help?

- Drink plenty of fluids (like water, juice, or drinks without caffeine), unless your health care provider says not to. Water is best. This will help you to make sure you have enough fluids.
 - › Try to drink 1.5 L or 6 8-ounce glasses of fluids (like water) a day.

If you are in the hospital:

- Save your pee in a urinal (also called a “hat”).
- Your nurse will measure the amount of pee and write down how often you pee.
- They may also do an ultrasound of your bladder to make sure your bladder is emptying well.

If you have left the hospital:

- Your doctor may ask you to measure the amount of your pee. This will help them to know how well your bladder is working.

After discharge

- If you do not have a follow-up appointment booked at the Urology Clinic and you have questions or concerns, call your primary health care provider.

This pamphlet is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to replace the advice or professional judgment of a health care provider. The information may not apply to all situations. If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider.

Find all patient education resources here:
www.nshealth.ca/patient-education-resources

Connect with a registered nurse in Nova Scotia any time:
Call 811 or visit: <https://811.novascotia.ca>

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