Care of Your Peritoneal Dialysis Catheter

What is a peritoneal dialysis catheter?
A peritoneal dialysis (PD) catheter is a small, flexible tube. It is put into your abdomen (tummy) by a surgeon in the operating room. It will be used for your dialysis.
Protecting your peritoneal dialysis (PD) catheter

Care of your incision(cut)/exit site

• Your dressing will be left on for 7 days (1 week). This should help the PD catheter exit site to heal better.

• Once you have been discharged from the hospital, the VON or home care nurse will visit your home every 7 days to change your dressing.

• The VON/home care nurse or clinic nurse will remove your staples (or sutures) about 10 to 14 days after your surgery.

• Your dressing will be changed every 7 days for about 6 to 8 weeks. After this time, you may be taught the shower technique by your dialysis or clinic nurse.

What are your questions?
Please ask. We are here to help you.
Tips:

• Wash your hands before touching your dressing.
• Keep your dressing dry.
• Check your dressing each day to make sure it is dry and not falling off.
• Bend at the knees when picking something up.
• Hold your tummy when you cough.
• Call VON or home care if:
  › your dressing falls off
  › your dressing feels wet
  › your incision/exit site is sore
  › you have a fever, chills, or pain in your tummy
• Take your laxatives and stool softeners regularly to avoid constipation (not being able to poop).
• Be careful when you do strenuous (hard) activities (e.g., chop wood, shovel snow, vacuum floors, or scrub bathtubs).
• Do not shower, soak in a bathtub, or swim, until the home dialysis nurses say that it is OK.
• Do not wear tight clothing (e.g., belts, tight elastic waists, jeans).
• Do not lift anything over 20 lbs (e.g., heavy laundry, groceries, children).
• Do not overextend your reach (e.g., reach up into a high cupboard).
• Do not become constipated or strain when you have a bowel movement (poop).

Other instructions:


This pamphlet is just a guide. If you have questions, please talk to your health care provider. We are here to help you.
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Learn about other programs and services in your community: call 211 or visit http://ns.211.ca

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