

Urinary Catheter Drainage System Care - Page 1 of 2

A catheter is a tube in the bladder which drains urine from the patient's bladder through the tube and into a closed leg bag that is placed on the thigh or into a straight drainage bag.

Draining Urine from the Leg Bag or Straight Drainage Bag

- **Wash your hands thoroughly.**
- Have a container or the toilet accessible so that the urine can be emptied into it. You can use any **clean** glass jar or plastic container if the toilet or commode is not available to you. Whatever container you choose to use, it should be kept clean and dry between uses, and used only for this purpose.
- Place the container under the drainage bag nozzle or cap at the bottom of the bag.
- Carefully open the nozzle/cap to the drainage bag and allow the urine to flow freely from the bag. This will happen as soon as the nozzle/cap is removed or opened. Keep the nozzle/cap clean. Do not allow it to touch anything while the urine is draining from the bag.
- When the bag is completely empty, close the nozzle or replace the cap on the spout securely.
- If you have not used the toilet to empty your leg bag, empty the urine from the container that you used into the toilet and flush urine down the toilet.
- Clean the supplies as instructed below.
- **Wash your hands thoroughly.**

How to Clean the Leg Bags or Straight Drainage Bags and Urine Collection Devices

Supplies to gather are:

- Soap and Water
- Soft Scrub Brush
- Sink or Scrubbing Pan
- Cleaning Solution:
 - Mix 4 teaspoons vinegar and 1 pint of water **OR**
 - Scouring powder and water **OR**
 - Commercial cleaning fluids, following labeled instructions **OR**
 - 10% liquid bleach solution, 1 part bleach to 9 parts tap water.**

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- Wash unattached tubing, urinary drainage bag or leg bag, and container used to empty urine in soapy warm water.
- Scrub off any mineral-type build-up with a soft brush.
- Rinse all objects with cool tap water thoroughly.
- Make sure the nozzle/cap is in the closed position.
- Pour the cleaning solution into the urinary drainage bag/leg bag.
- Soak for at least 8 hours or overnight.
- Open nozzle or cap from bottom of the bag to drain the cleaning solution.
- Rinse with cool water, dry outside of bag and tubing with clean cloth or paper towels.
- Allow drainage bag/leg bag to remain open at one end to air. Store in a clean dry area.
- Keep this bag clean and ready for use as needed.

**Bleach solutions can discolor clothing and cloths. Take care when choosing this cleaning solution.

How to Change Straight Drainage Bag to a Leg Bag or a Leg Bag to Straight Drainage Bag:

- **Wash hands with soap and water thoroughly.**
- Using alcohol sponges or 70% Isopropyl Alcohol on a cotton ball, wipe connector site of leg bag or straight drainage tubing when a change is needed.
- Disconnect rubber port of urinary catheter from the lone hose attached to the straight drainage bag or the top of the leg bag.
- Connect the rubber port of the urinary drainage catheter to the upper leg bag port or to the upper port of the long tubing of the straight drainage bag.
- Fasten the leg bag according to the directions enclosed with the leg bag.
- **Wash hands with soap and water thoroughly.**
- Take care of disconnected drainage bag and/or tubing as per previous directions on Page 1.