

Care of the Peritoneal Catheter and Exit Site

Guidelines for parents/carers and patients when at home

Newly inserted catheters:

- When the catheter has been inserted in theatre, the site will be covered with a sterile gauze dressing. This should ideally not be removed or disturbed for at least 7 days post operatively. The first dressing change would be at Out-patient clinic around 7 to 10 days post insertion.
- It is very important to keep the catheter as close to trunk as possible to prevent movement to minimise damage to skin around site.
- The catheter must be secured firmly to the abdomen with a Skin-fix device at all times to prevent pulling.
- Nursing staff will observe the exit site whilst your child is in the ward.
- Advice and instructions will be given on replacing the sterile dressing should it become wet or dislodged.
- The catheter will be flushed on return from theatre, and weekly thereafter at Out-patient clinic.
- You will meet or be assigned to a Renal Liaison Nurse before discharge and be given dressings and information regarding any supplies/suppliers you may need.
- The Renal Liaison Nurse will check the catheter site at clinic visits and deal with any concerns.

Peritoneal Catheters that have been inserted for more than 10 days:

- Routine care at home would be daily gentle shower with mild unperfumed soap.

- The dressing over the exit site should be removed before shower but Skin-fix immobiliser should be left in place to secure the catheter. This can be changed after shower when clean dressing has been applied.
- Do not remove any crusts or scabs that may have formed around site as this may cause a break or trauma to skin around site and increase the risk of infection.
- The exit site should be dried gently and carefully with a clean towel and clean Premierpore or other appropriate sterile dry dressing applied.
- Any signs of inflammation, swelling, pain, discomfort, odour or any change that you may be concerned about should be reported to your Renal Liaison Nurse immediately or to ward staff if out of hours.
- If your child develops a high temperature or feels unwell, again contact nursing staff for advice.
- Nursing staff will arrange for review and for site to be swabbed for Microbiology investigation if required.
- If there is evidence of infection the dressing will need to be assessed and changed daily, you will be given advice on this.
- Do not apply anything to the site other than what has been advised by medical or nursing staff.
- Please do not hesitate to discuss any concerns you may have.