

Urinary Catheter

A urinary catheter is a thin hollow tube, which drains urine from your bladder into a drainage bag.

Why do I need a urinary catheter?

During your procedure, you will not be able to get up and go to the toilet.

A urinary catheter will be inserted into your urethra (opening to the bladder) before your procedure. You may feel burning, pressure or both when the catheter is being inserted.

Tell the doctor and nurse if you have problems urinating or have had a catheter in the past.

How long will I have a urinary catheter?

Your doctor will decide how long you will need a urinary catheter. Usually it stays in place until you are able to get up and go to the toilet. You may feel a slight burning when the catheter is removed.

What can I expect after the urinary catheter is removed?

Your bladder and urethra may be irritated for 24 to 48 hours after the catheter has been removed.

As a result, you may:

- hesitate to urinate
- urinate often
- feel stinging or soreness when urinating
- have pinkish urine
- not be able to hold the urine

These problems should go away after urinating a few times.

Call your family doctor right away or your local health care provider if you:

- have pain with urination that continues or gets worse
- have blood in the urine that continues or gets worse
- have cloudiness or any other color change of your urine
- are not urinating at least 1 time every 8 hours
- are not able to urinate when you wake up in the morning
- have any other problems or concerns