

DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS: NEPHROSTOMY TUBE PLACEMENT

You have just undergone a procedure called Nephrostomy Tube Placement. During this procedure, a tube is placed directly into the kidney in order to drain urine directly from a kidney that is blocked. Sometimes, these tubes drain urine from the kidney directly outside of the body (external drainage). If that is the case, the urine will drain directly into the bag that is attached to the tube. Other times, these tubes extend internally from the kidney to the bladder (internal drainage). If that is the case, the urine will drain normally into the bladder and you will therefore urinate normally. You will know if your tube is draining internally because it will not be attached to a bag. Instead, an internally draining tube will be “capped”.

1. If the holds in the catheter become blocked with debris, you may experience symptoms, which include fever and/or chills, back pain, or a very wet bandage. If any of these symptoms occur, please attach the nephrostomy tube to the drainage bag and call our office at (518) 262-5149. During evening hours, please call (518) 262-3125 and ask to speak with the Interventional Radiologist on call.
2. If your catheter is draining externally, please make sure that there are no kinks in the tubing since this can obstruct the flow of urine.
3. If the catheter becomes dislodged or pulled out, please call our office immediately so that the tube can be replaced. We are most successful at replacing tubes when we attempt to replace them shortly after they have fallen out. If your tube does fall out, please call our office at (518) 262-5149. During evening hours, please call (518) 262-3125 and ask to speak with the Interventional Radiologist on call.
4. Please change the bandage around the catheter once per week or if the dressing is soiled or wet.
5. The catheter should be flushed once a day in order to clean any debris out of the holes in the catheter. Flush with 10 ml of saline. Push the saline in towards the catheter (not the drainage bag). Flush slowly in only. Do not pull back fluid into the syringe. By pulling the solution back into the

syringe, you may pull the debris back into the catheter. If you have any questions, please call our office at (518) 262-5149. During evening hours, please call (518) 262-3125 and ask to speak with the Interventional Radiologist on call.