



**Spire** Children and Young  
People's Service

## Patient information

# Paediatric catheter care

This leaflet provides some information about catheter care. The treatment described here may be adapted to meet your child's individual medical needs so it's important to follow the advice of your child's consultant.

Please raise any concerns or questions with your child's consultant or nurse. It is natural to feel anxious before hospital treatment but knowing what to expect can help.

The information contained in this leaflet is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice nor is it intended to be for medical diagnosis or treatment.

	<b>Children's Ward: 0161 447 6914</b>
	<b>Out of Hours: 0161 447 6677</b>
	<b>info@spiremanchester.com</b>
	<b>www.spiremanchester.com</b>



**Spire**

Manchester Hospital

## Looking after your child's catheter at home

Your child may be discharged with a catheter. If your child wears a nappy, the catheter will drain into their nappy. If your child is older, the catheter will drain into a bag on their leg. Urine may leak around the tube. This is common and is not a problem, as long as most of the urine drains through the tube. Excessive leaking might indicate the tube is blocked. If you suspect this, or if the tube comes out, call the paediatric team on 0161 447 6914.

## Nappies

If your child wears nappies, use two nappies for added protection and cushioning. If they are going home with a tube in their penis or bladder, your nurse will show you how to arrange the double nappies. The inner nappy is for bowel movements and the outer nappy will absorb urine. A spot or two of blood on the nappy is normal.

The tube may cause bladder spasms. Spasms aren't harmful, but may be uncomfortable. Do not apply powder or ointments to the genital area. If your child has loose

bowel movements and soils their surgical dressing, clean it gently with soapy water and a washcloth, away from their genitals.

## Follow these steps two times a day to keep your child's catheter clean and free of germs that can cause infection:

- Wash your hands well with soap and water. Be sure to clean between your fingers and under your nails.
- Use clean, warm water.
- Wet a washcloth with warm water and add soap.
- Gently hold the catheter and begin washing the end near the genitals. Move slowly down the catheter (away from your child's body) to clean it. Never clean from the bottom of the catheter towards your child's body.
- Gently dry the tubing with a clean towel.

## To make sure that the catheter is working properly, follow the below advice:

- Always keep the bag below your child's waist.
- Try not to disconnect the catheter more than you need to. Keeping it connected to the bag will make it work better.
- Check for kinks, and move the tubing around if it is not draining.
- Drink plenty of water or squash during the day to keep urine flowing.
- Avoid physical activity.

## Contact the hospital if your child develops any of the following symptoms:

- Temperature
- Excessive bleeding (some spotting or blood stains on the dressing is normal)
- Extreme irritability
- Excessive pain
- Increasing redness of the penis or genitals
- Disinterest in eating and drinking (particularly after 24 hours)
- Continuous vomiting
- Change in urination

**If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the paediatric team on 0161 447 6914 or main reception on 0161 447 6677.**

**Spire Manchester Hospital does not have an accident and emergency department therefore if your concerns are of a serious nature please seek immediate medical attention from your local accident and emergency department.**