



Care for Your Hemodialysis Catheter

Dialysis Unit Contact Information

- Pediatric Dialysis Unit: (734) 232-7373
 - Unit hours: 6:00 AM - 6:30 PM Monday through Saturday (we are closed Sundays)
 - Care Coordinator hours: 6:00 AM - 4:30 PM Monday through Friday
- Paging operator: (734) 936-4000. Ask to page the on-call pediatric nephrologist.

What should I do if I have an issue with my catheter?

If the dressing becomes non-intact (meaning it has lifted past the edge of the dressing into the clear center window of the dressing):

- Cover the site with Tegaderm™ and contact the Dialysis Unit immediately.
- If it is after hours or a Sunday, page the on-call nephrologist. You will need to come in to have the dressing changed to reduce your risk of infection.

If the cap comes off the catheter:

- Cover the end of the catheter with an alcohol pad. Then wrap the catheter end with sterile gauze and place tape around the wrap to hold it in place.
- Call the Dialysis Unit during business hours or page nephrologist on call if it is after 6:30 PM or on a Sunday.
- We may ask you to come to the ER so that the dialysis nurse can draw blood and start giving you antibiotics.

If the catheter gets pulled out: This is an emergency!

- Put pressure on the site with sterile gauze and call 911 immediately.

If the Biopatch™ under the dressing appears to be filled with blood, or if you notice bleeding:

Call the Dialysis Unit. If it is after hours, page the nephrologist on call and go to the Emergency Room.

What are possible signs and symptoms of a catheter infection?

Watch for the following symptoms of a catheter infection, which include:

- Temperature greater than 100.4° Fahrenheit (38° Celsius)
- Rigors (shaking or chills)
- Unusual irritability in an infant
- Low blood pressure
- Unexplained high blood pressure
- Soreness, redness, or drainage (leaking fluid) around the catheter site

If you think you have a catheter infection, call the Dialysis Unit. If it is after hours, page the nephrologist on call and go to the Emergency Room.

Everyday care for your hemodialysis catheter

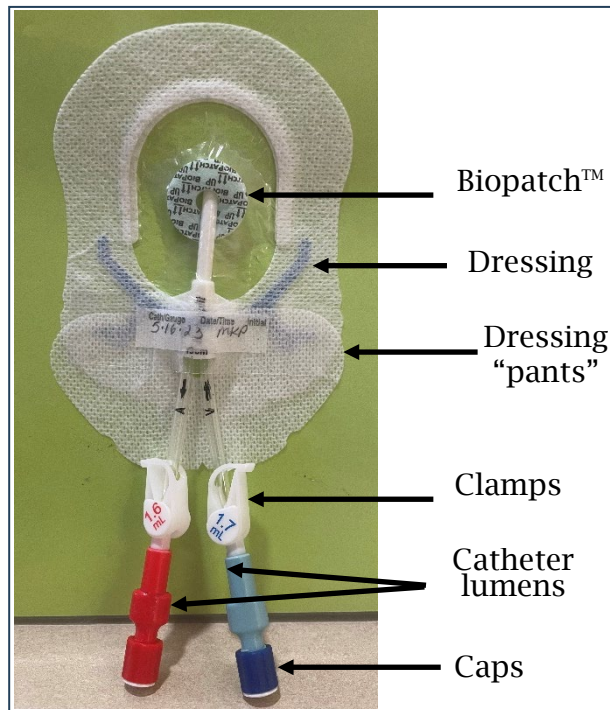
Dialysis staff are the only people who should access your hemodialysis catheter. Your catheter should only be used for dialysis (not for blood draws or IV infusions by others who are not dialysis staff) unless it is a life-threatening emergency or ordered by your nephrologist.

Treat your catheter with care. Avoid:

- Twisting the lines
- Pulling the lines
- Getting it stuck on clothing
- Moving clamps or removing caps

Dressing care

- Keep the catheter dressing clean and dry. Do not get the dressing wet or put it under water. Avoid swimming, hot tubs, or baths which would get the catheter or lumens wet.
- Showers are not recommended. Daily hygiene can be done as a sponge bath. Make sure your dressing, catheter, and chest are well-covered with plastic wrap before the sponge bath. Avoid getting a direct stream of water on your chest.
- When bathing, wash the upper part of your chest with an antimicrobial pump soap. Do not use bar soap or refill the antimicrobial pump bottle after you use it to avoid germs and bacteria growth.



- Patients and caregivers should always wash their hands before touching the dressing or catheter.
- Do not use lotion near the catheter dressing sites.
- Change your bed sheets or linens weekly, and wear clean pajamas every night to reduce the risk of infection.
- If the dressing becomes non-intact (meaning it has lifted past the edge of the dressing into the center clear window), follow the emergency instructions on page 1 of this handout.
- If the dressing begins to peel up at the edges only, you can fix it at home. Reinforce (help keep down) the edge with medical tape or Tegaderm™ to prevent the dressing from becoming non-intact. Tell dialysis staff that you reinforced the dressing at your next visit so they can change it.
- When putting new Tegaderm™ on the lifted edge, trim the new Tegaderm™ first so it will not cover the clear window. If the clear center window is covered, the dressing can't "breathe" (allow air to flow through it) and it will need to be changed.

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