Care of Reuseable Urinary Drainage Systems

Why do I need to clean out my urinary bags?
Urinary bags need to be cleaned on a regular basis to dissolve the deposit buildup and to reduce bacteria growth and odor.

How do I clean my leg bag or night drain bags?
1. Wash your hands. Caregivers should also wash their hands and wear non-sterile gloves.
2. Drain the urine from the bag into the toilet or container.
3. Fill the bag with clean water and shake to rinse well and then drain. Do this twice.
4. Pour a watered down solution of chlorine bleach on the drainage spigot, spigot hub, cap and connector. To make the solution use 1 part bleach to 10 parts water (1:10). It is also acceptable is to use 4 ounces of bleach to 1 gallon of water.
5. Using a funnel or a water bottle with a spigot, pour the bleach solution through the tubing and into the empty drainage bag. Shake for 30 seconds to one minute, and then allow the solution to drain out of the bag. Allow the tubing and bag to air dry completely.
6. Wash and dry your hands well when cleaning is complete.
7. Remember to cover the end of the tubing after it is dry to prevent contamination.
**How often should I clean the urinary bags?**

We recommend cleaning the urinary bags at least every other day. Bags that are cleaned on a routine basis can be used for two weeks or up to a maximum of 1 month.

Another cleaning option is to use white vinegar. Use the same process as above with 1 part vinegar and 3 parts water (1:3). However, studies show that the bleach solution is a better mixture to kill bacteria. The vinegar solution is mainly to control odor.

**Contact Information**

If you have any questions, please contact the University of Michigan, Department of Urology at 734-936-7030 during business hours (8:00 am – 5:00 pm). After business hours or on weekends, please call 734-936-6267 and ask to speak with the Urology Resident on call. If you need to see a doctor right away please go to the nearest Emergency Room (ER). Have the ER doctor contact the University of Michigan urology resident on call for assistance.