



Lancashire

County
Council



Catheter care

LCC IPC Guidance

Next Review October 2025

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Catheter care

Daily catheter care

- Routine daily hygiene using soap and water is appropriate for meatal care
- In uncircumcised males, the area under the foreskin should be cleansed daily to remove smegma, decrease trauma and ulceration to the meatus and glans penis, and reduce the risk for catheter associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI)
- In women, ensure that the genital area is cleaned from front to back to prevent contamination from the back passage. Dry the area carefully

Routine drainage bag care

- Discuss the need and indication for the procedure with the client and obtain consent
- Ensure a suitable, private location to maintain privacy and dignity
- Wash hands with soap and water
- Put on an apron and gloves as per PPE guidance
- When emptying the drainage bag, use a separate, clean container for each client and avoid contact between the tap and the container; wipe the tap with an alcohol wipe
- Empty the drainage bag every 4 to 8 hours or when the bag is half full, and before transporting the client
- Place the bag in a dependent position, about 12 inches (30 cm) below the level of the hips
- Do not rest the bag on the floor
- Keep the tubing above the level of the drainage bag and free of kinks. If the tubing must be raised for an extended period of time (e.g. transporting the client), care should be taken to prevent backflow of urine from the bag
- Do not place additives, such as antiseptic or antimicrobial solutions in the drainage bag
- Replace the drainage bag monthly or more frequently if there is clouding, odour, or discoloration of the drainage bag

