

Caring for Your IJ Catheter



Problem	What happens	What to do	How to prevent
Infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever, chills • Redness, swelling, pus at catheter site • Can spread to blood and heart; may cause death 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call your doctor right away • Start antibiotics right away 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep dressing and tape in place; staff will change dressing at dialysis • Don't get catheter and dressing wet • Touch the catheter as little as possible • Get a fistula, graft, or PD catheter as soon as you can
Bleeding, catheter loose or comes out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be a medical emergency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press down with gauze or clean cloth until bleeding stops and call your doctor • If it won't stop, or there's a lot of bleeding, call 911! • Don't try to put it back in or move it • Tape catheter down if you can 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't allow clothing to rub or pull on catheter • Keep dressing and tape in place • Don't try to move catheter • Get a fistula, graft, or PD catheter as soon as you can
Clotting Catheter clogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May not be able to dialyze 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May need to replace catheter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood thinning medication (heparin) given with every treatment by staff • Get a fistula, graft, or PD catheter as soon as you can



Problem	What happens	What to do	How to prevent
<p>Dressing gets wet, dirty or comes off</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of serious infection—blood and heart infection, and death 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change dressing carefully (normally only staff should change dressing at dialysis) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Gather supplies: hand sanitizer, mask, tape, gauze 2x2 pad, Chlorascrub swab Put on mask Wash hands, then use hand sanitizer Gently remove old tape and dressing Use hand sanitizer again Use Chlorascrub swab to clean, starting at catheter site and moving outward Let skin dry Cover with gauze 2x2 pad, holding pad by edges Tape firmly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't get catheter wet—no showers Touch catheter as little as possible Don't allow clothing to rub or pull on catheter Get a fistula, graft, or PD catheter as soon as you can