

What you need to know about your supra pubic catheter

What is a supra pubic catheter?

A supra pubic catheter is a type of catheter (tube) that goes directly through the skin below your belly button into the bladder. Urine will pass directly through the catheter from your bladder into a urine collection bag.

The catheter will not affect your movement and can easily be hidden under clothes.

Why do I have a supra pubic catheter?

Some types of surgery can affect the nerves around your bladder. This may affect your ability to pass urine normally. The supra pubic catheter is used to drain urine from your bladder after surgery.

How long will I have the catheter?

Before removing the catheter we must ensure that you have regained normal control of your bladder.

The doctor will decide when the catheter is removed

How will you know if I have normal bladder control?

We will start clamping your catheter. This means that the urine will no longer drain into a collection bag.

The catheter will stay in place but you can try to pass urine normally.

Your nurse will place a measuring container into the toilet so that each time you pass urine the nurse can measure the amount.

Please inform the nurse immediately after you have passed urine.

Please also inform the nurse if you are unable to pass urine or have any pain from your bladder.

We recommend that you try to drink a glass of water (about 200 ml) every hour during the test. Please do not drink too much.

Do I have to stay in hospital while I have the catheter?

You may find that you are unable to pass urine normally for longer than your planned stay in hospital. This does not mean that you have to stay in hospital. We will show you how to manage your catheter and arrange for a community nurse to help you at home while your catheter remains in. When your bladder is working normally again, the catheter will be removed.

Interpreter Services

Professional interpreters are available if you need help understanding or speaking in English. You may have a family member or friend present, but all communication about your treatment should be through a professional interpreter. Interpreter services are free and confidential.

It is your right to ask for an interpreter if one is not offered to you. The staff will book the interpreter for you.

After you have returned home, if you need to use an interpreter to contact us, please call the Translating and Interpreter Service on 131 450.

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