

How to care for a catheter

It is important that the catheter is carefully looked after at home to prevent the tube becoming blocked or urinary infections from occurring.

It is important to keep the whole area very clean to reduce the risk of infection. Clean the area with simple warm water with no extra soap or bubble bath. Do not give your child a bath during the seven days when the catheter is in situ the catheter.

Keep an eye on the colour and smell of his urine. It should be clear or straw coloured with little or no smell.

If his urine becomes darker it is probably because he is not drinking enough fluids. Drinking lots is important as it helps flush out any bacteria that may have entered the catheter. It also prevents the catheter becoming blocked. Try to encourage him to drink as much as possible. Water or squash is ideal. If he is unwilling to drink, try ice lollies or adding extra fluids to his diet, e.g. cereals or milky puddings.

If you notice that his urine has become cloudy and smelly, then these could be signs that your child has a urine infection. Other signs to look for are a raised temperature and complaining of tummy ach, e.g.

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