

# **Kaiser Permanente Medical Center**

## **YOUR FOLEY CATHETER**

You have had a foley catheter in your bladder to drain urine. As long as the catheter is draining, you will not need to urinate. Do not pull on the catheter because there is a balloon on the end of the catheter in the bladder to prevent it from falling out. You may shower with the catheter in place.

When you are up and around, you may connect the catheter to a leg bag. Remove the cap from the end of the bag labeled TOP. Connect the catheter and strap the bag around your leg, according to the instructions that came with the bag. When the bag becomes full remove the cap from the BOTTOM of the bag, empty the bag, then re-apply the clip to prevent leakage.

When you are in bed, it is more convenient to connect the catheter to the larger night bag, so you will not need to get up frequently to empty the bag. Remove the cap on the drainage tube, then connect catheter to the tube. The night bag has a tube at the bottom with a clip. To empty the night bag, release the clip, empty the bag, then re-apply the clip to prevent leakage.

## **PROBLEMS YOU MAY ENCOUNTER**

### URGE TO URINATE, AND OCCASIONAL LEAKAGE AROUND THE CATHETER

This is most commonly caused by the catheter and balloon irritating the bladder, causing spasms. You may feel as though the bladder is full, although it is not and the urine will continue to drain through the catheter into the bag. However, if no urine is draining through the catheter into the bag, the catheter may be blocked. You should come to the Emergency Room to have this remedied.

### IRRITATION OF THE TIP OF THE PENIS

If this occurs, wash the top of the penis around the catheter and wash the catheter itself where it comes out of the penis. In order to lubricate the Foley Catheter, apply a small amount of Neosporin ointment to the catheter where it comes out of the penis. Do this twice a day. The ointment can be purchased without a prescription at a drug store.

### BLEEDING

If the urine becomes bloody, rest and drink plenty of fluids, to dilute the blood and prevent blockage of the catheter. To maintain a blood flow of urine while the catheter is in place in your bladder, it is advisable to drink plenty of fluids even if there is no bleeding. If the catheter becomes clogged or blocked, report to the Emergency Room to have this remedied.

### SWELLING AND PAIN

In very rare occasions, swelling and pain may occur in one or both testicles. These are signs of infection in the area of the testicle(s) and can be serious. You should report this to the Emergency Room for evaluation.

### FORESKIN PROBLEMS

If you are not circumcised, you should wear your foreskin draped over the head of the penis while the catheter is in place. Pull the foreskin back only for cleaning and then drape it back down again. If the foreskin is retracted while catheter is in place, swelling and pain can result.