

Call your Hemodialysis Unit or go to your nearest Emergency Department if you have any of the following:

- temperature greater than 38°C (100°F) or fever and chills
- heavy bleeding or discharge around your catheter site
- sudden swollen face, neck or limb
- your catheter falls out at home.

Vascular Access Nurse

Monday to Friday
7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Regina 306-766-4209
Saskatoon 306-655-5482

For 24 hour professional health advice and information, call:

HealthLine 811
HEALTHLINEONLINE.CA ++

Hemodialysis Catheter

A hemodialysis catheter is a plastic tube with 2 separate ends (lumens). You may have one in the upper chest, neck, or groin area.

Advantage

- Your catheter can be used right away.

Limitations

- Your catheter may need to be replaced because of clots, kinks or infection.
- Infections are the largest risk to your body.
- With time, the veins near the heart may get damaged. It is important to talk to your healthcare provider about better options to receive dialysis treatment.
- **Do NOT** shower, swim, bathe or go in a hot tub.
- Your nurse may teach you how to shower safely after 6 weeks, if there are no signs of infection.

After Procedure

- Eat a light lunch after your hemodialysis catheter goes in and before your hemodialysis treatment.
- Always keep your dressing dry. Keep your dressing taped in place, unless otherwise instructed.
- You may tape your catheter to your chest to help prevent tugging or pulling.
- Stitches at your neck will be removed 10 days after your new hemodialysis catheter is placed by a hemodialysis nurse. Stitches lower down on the catheter will be removed after 6 to 8 weeks.
- Only hemodialysis nurses are allowed to use this type of catheter. If any other medical person wants to use your catheter, that person must talk to the nephrologist (kidney doctor).
- Keep sharp objects away from the catheter.

Medication

- Acetaminophen (Tylenol®) is the only recommended medication for pain relief. Use as directed.

Activity

- Avoid heavy lifting on the same side as your catheter for 6 to 8 weeks.

