

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

- fever (temperature higher than 38°C or 100.4°F)
- chills
- excessive bleeding around your catheter
- sudden swollen face, neck, or limb, on the same side as your catheter
- end caps have come off your catheter - make sure clamps are closed
- your catheter is partially out
- your catheter comes out - apply pressure to the site.

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 +++

Non-Tunneled Dialysis Catheters

A dialysis catheter is a plastic tube, which branches into 2 separate ends (lumens). Dialysis catheters are usually placed in the internal jugular vein in the neck area or in a vein in the groin area. This catheter is a temporary access for hemodialysis or plasmapheresis patients.

Advantage

- Your catheter can be used right away.

Limitations

- Your catheter may need to be replaced because of clots, kinks or infection/blood infection.
- If long-term treatments are needed, a more permanent access is required (cuffed catheter, arteriovenous fistula/arteriovenous graft).

Day of Procedure

- Local freezing is used.
- Conscious sedation may be considered. You are not put to sleep but you may feel very sleepy.
- Your catheter is held in place with stitches and covered with a dressing.
- The dressing must remain over the exit site at all times.
- You have a chest x-ray, if the line is in your neck.
- Plan on spending the day because you are likely to be scheduled for a treatment after the procedure is completed.
- You must have someone drive you home after the procedure.
- Bring their own meal/snack to eat after their procedures are completed. Dialysis Unit is an outpatient service and does not provide meals/snacks.

