

You must telephone your dialysis unit or the renal ward immediately if you experience any of the following:

1. You develop a high temperature, chills, shivering or sweating. These are symptoms of infection, which must be treated promptly. The catheter may have to be removed and you may need to be given antibiotics.
2. Pain, redness, soreness or swelling around the exit site of the dialysis catheter, which may indicate infection
3. The stitches holding the dialysis catheter in place break. The dialysis catheter will be more likely to fall out if the stitches break or become dislodged. Stitches for temporary catheters remain in place until the catheter is removed. There are two sets of stitches for a tunnelled catheter.

Those at the insertion site can be removed after 7-10 days. Those at the exit site from the tunnel should stay in place for 3-4 weeks.

4. The dialysis catheter falls out. If this happens, apply firm pressure to the exit site to stop any bleeding.
5. One of the caps comes off the end of the dialysis catheter. The clamp on the catheter must be clamped off at all times to stop blood flowing out of the catheter and air getting in.

Preventing infection

Any member of staff who touches the catheter must undertake strict procedures to prevent infection. Hands must be thoroughly washed and the correct equipment used; a visor or a face shield is worn by staff when cleaning or accessing your catheter, and also sterile gloves

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The Trust cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the information given if the leaflet is not used by RD&E staff undertaking procedures at the RD&E hospitals.

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