

# Removing your Temporary (Non-Cuffed) Haemodialysis Catheter

## Introduction

This leaflet is about the procedure required to remove your temporary haemodialysis catheter. It is intended to provide you with the information you need before you agree to have the procedure performed. It does not replace discussion between you and your doctor or the nurses. Please ask all the questions you need to ensure that you fully understand what is involved.

## Who will remove the catheter and where will it be done?

- A kidney specialist doctor or nurse will decide when the catheter needs to be removed.
- A trained nurse or doctor will remove the temporary dialysis catheter either on the ward or in on the Renal Day Case Unit.
- You can eat and drink before and after the procedure.

## Why am I having my temporary dialysis catheter removed?

There are many reasons why your temporary dialysis catheter is to be removed such as:

- Changing the temporary dialysis catheter to a tunnelled (cuffed) dialysis catheter if dialysis is required for several weeks or until permanent access is created (see the patient information leaflet for 'Tunnelled (Cuffed) Dialysis Catheter Insertion' and for 'Vascular Access for Haemodialysis Patients').

Or for:

- infection
- thrombosis (blood clot)
- catheter blockage
- it is no longer required

If you are unsure about the reasons for the removal of your line, please ask your nurse or doctor.

## Will I need a blood test?

A recent blood tests will be required to ensure that your blood will clot properly after the procedure.

## How is the temporary dialysis catheter is removed?

The doctor or nurse from the ward or dialysis unit will arrange a date and time for this to happen.

If the catheter is in the neck the nurse or doctor will take the line out when you are lying flat and performing a breathing technique, which they will explain to you. They will tell you exactly when and what they would like you to do. They will gently press where the line came out of the vein (exit site) for about 10 minutes until bleeding has stopped. You will have a dressing placed over the exit site.

If this is a groin (femoral) catheter you will need to be flat for around 30 minutes. They will gently press where the line came out of the vein for about 10 minutes, until bleeding has stopped. You will have a dressing placed over the exit site.



The nurse or doctor will ask you to rest on the bed for approximately two hours. You may be able to go home after removal. The dressing should remain in place for 48 hours (2 days). After 2 days, this can be removed.

This dressing must be kept clean and dry. If you are unsure how to change this dressing, please discuss this with a nurse.

## How long it will take?

It is not easy to predict how easy or complicated the procedure will be. Usually the whole procedure will take about 20 minutes

## What should I look out for?

### Bleeding

A little spot of blood on the dressing is to be expected.

If you are an inpatient and the dressing becomes full with blood tell your nurse or doctor immediately and ask for help.

If you are at home and the dressing becomes full with blood apply gentle pressure and contact **Creedy Ward** on **01392 402591** for advice.

### Redness/soreness

If the exit site is red and sore please contact **Creedy Ward** on **01392 402591** for advice as you may have an infection.

### Swelling/discharge

A small amount of puffiness after the removal is to be expected. If there is any increased swelling or discharge, please contact **Creedy Ward** on **01392 402591** for advice.

## What should I not do?

Because of infection, when bathing, a shallow bath is recommended to avoid the 'dirty' water touching the area, showering is fine. If the dressing becomes wet, it should be replaced with a clean dry one.

## Contact us

If you have any queries or concerns about the procedure whatsoever, or have not understood anything you have been told, please do not hesitate to ring us.

- Monday-Friday (except bank holidays) 9am-5pm, please contact one of the Renal Day Case Unit staff nurses on **01392 404791/4792** or **Creedy Ward** on **01392 402591**
- At all other times or if the above number is unavailable, please ring the hospital switchboard on **01392 411611** and ask for the **Renal Bleep Holder**.

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.

© Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust

Designed by Graphics (Print & Design), RD&E