

## Caring for Your Peritoneal Dialysis Catheter

This handout is about how to take care of your peritoneal dialysis (PD) catheter.

### After Getting Your Catheter

The dressing on your abdomen should stay clean, dry, and firmly taped. **Do not take showers or baths.** Do not get the dressings wet until the Peritoneal Dialysis staff tells you it is okay. If the dressings become loose, add more tape and gauze if needed.

The nurses in Peritoneal Dialysis will change the dressings when you return for your next visit. At that time, they will set up weekly visits for you. At these visits, the nurse will change your dressing. The nurse will also run some fluids in and out of the catheter to make sure it works well. This will be done weekly until you are fully healed, and you begin training for home dialysis. This will be in about 3-4 weeks or as determined by your doctor.

### Other Restrictions

Do not lift more than 15 pounds for the first week. Then lift no more than 30 pounds for 2 months. Avoid straining while having a bowel movement.

### When to Call

- Bloody dressings
- Wet dressings
- Abdominal pain, either deep inside you or on the surface. If pain is normal for you, call if you have more pain or if the pain changes.
- Fever more than 100.5°F or chills.
- Nausea and vomiting.

### Who to Call

Call the Peritoneal Dialysis Clinic at **(608) 270-5643**, 8 AM – 4:30 PM, Monday - Friday.

After hours, weekends, and holidays call **(608) 262-2122**. This will give you the paging operator. Ask for the “PD nurse on call” or your doctor. Leave your name and phone number with the area code. The nurse or doctor will call you back.

If you live out of the area, please call: **1-800-323-8942**.

If you will not be returning to Fresenius Kidney Care Fitchburg for follow-up, call your local PD unit within the next 24 hours for further directions.

Return to the PD Clinic at Fresenius Kidney Care Fitchburg on \_\_\_\_\_.

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 7/2020. University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#5138