

<p><b>Status: Standard Procedure:</b> specifies the procedures to be followed, only in exceptional circumstances should these not be followed.</p>	<p><b>Policy No: CLSP 26</b> <b>Revision No:</b> <b>Date Approved: 01/03/11</b> <b>Review Date: 01/03/13</b></p>
<p><b>Title:</b> Standard Procedure for Emptying a Urinary Catheter Bag</p>	
<p><b>Written by:</b> Clinical Practice Project Group</p>	
<p><b>Approved by:</b></p>	
<p><b>Cross Reference:</b> BPH 02, ICG 02, ICG 01</p>	

### 1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this standard procedure is to ensure safe practice during the emptying of a urinary catheter bag.

### 2.0 Scope

Cheshire Ireland services/centres where catheters are managed for Cheshire service users.

### 3.0 Responsibility

- It is the responsibility of all staff who manage catheter care to follow this standard procedure.
- It is the responsibility of service managers to ensure staff are familiar with the standard procedure and to monitor compliance.

### 4.0 Definitions

N/A

### 5.0 Procedure

#### Equipment:

- Gloves
- Alcohol wipes / or paper towel
- Jug preferably with cover (use paper towel if not)

Procedure:

- Wash and dry hands thoroughly (Ref: ICG 02).
- Apply Gloves (Ref: ICG 01).
- A separate clean container is used for service user at the time of bag emptying. Contact between drainage tap and container is avoided. Gloves are worn to empty drainage bags and changed after hand washing between service user.
- Explain the procedure to the service user.
- Ensure the privacy and comfort of the service user.
- Take all equipment to the service user or take the service user to an appropriate area i.e. bathroom, depending on the choice of the service user.
- Protect clothing and surrounding area from spillage.
- Position the jug under the drainage port, (if the drainage bag is on a stand it does not need to be removed).
- **DO NOT ALLOW THE PORT TO TOUCH THE JUG.**
- Open the port to empty the bag.
- Close the port when bag is empty.
- Wipe the port with an alcohol swab or paper towel to prevent dripping or build up of contamination (Nicol et al., 2004).
- Reposition the catheter bag as necessary to ensure the drainage port is not touching the floor and the tubing is not kinked/bent.
- Engage with the service user to ensure that they are comfortable.
- Cover the jug and take to bathroom or sluice room.
- Observe the amount of urine, colour, odour, and the presence of blood clots or white thread like particles.
- Discard the urine and thoroughly wash the jug in the sluice machine.
- Remove and discard gloves.
- Wash and dry hands thoroughly.
- Record the amount of urine and other observations noted above in the service users personal record, in line with the Best Possible Health Continence care plan.
- Report any concerns to the senior member of staff on duty/GP.

**Troubleshooting**

**Catheter Care**

**Key Points:**

- Daily bathing or showering is encouraged.
- A closed drainage system is maintained as far as possible. Maintaining a closed drainage system reduces the risk of catheter-related infection (Kunin, 1997)

**Regular observation:**

- If changes are observed in the frequency, appearance, or smell of urine, the service user complains of pain when urinating, lower abdominal pain, lower back pain or discomfort are observed, record in Best Possible Health Daily Continuation Sheet/BPH Continence Records and report to lead clinical person/line manager.
- Constipation
- Incorrect positioning of drainage tube
- Drainage bag over full
- Balloon under or over inflated.
- Encrustation

**6.0 References**

Mallett, J. & Dougherty, L. (2000). *The Royal Marsden Hospital Manual of Clinical Nursing Procedures*. Blackwell Publishing, Oxford.

Nicol, M., Bavin, C., Bedford-Turner, S., Cronin, P. & Rawlings-Anderson, K. (2004). *Essential Nursing Skills*, Mosby, United Kingdom.

*Catheter Care*, RCN Guidance for Nurses 2008

**Appendices**



Cheshire Ireland

Document Name: Input Output Record

Document Number: IOR 01 Version Number: 0 Version Date: 1/6/11

Developed by: Nurse Development Forum Approved by: National Risk Management Committee

Approval Date: 1/6/11

Review Date: 31/05/13

Cheshire Ireland

Document Name: Standard Procedure for Emptying a Urinary Catheter Bag

Document Number: CLSP 26, Version Number: 0, Version Date: 01/03/2011