

# Percutaneous Nephrostomy Tube (PCN) Patient Instructions

A nephrostomy tube drains urine directly from your kidney to a drainage bag outside your body. Proper care is important to prevent infection and ensure the tube continues to drain well.

## ✓ After Care Instructions

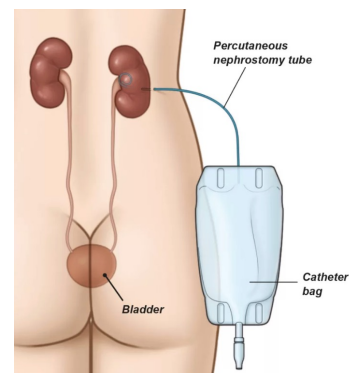
- Always wash your hands thoroughly before and after touching the tube, dressing, or drainage bag.
- Your PCN may be bloody after placement. Please flush catheter with 10mL of normal saline daily. Once clear, no further flushing is needed.
- You may remove the dressing after 24 hours. However, if you prefer the dressing for security, please exchange at least every 7 days. The insertion site should be cleaned with soap and water prior to dressing application.
- You may shower with the PCN in place and allow soap and water to run over insertion site.
- Keep the drainage bag below the level of your kidney to ensure proper drainage and prevent backflow.
- Empty the bag at least twice daily or when it is 2/3 full. Empty the bag at least twice daily or when it is 2/3 full.
- Avoid baths, swimming, or hot tubs.
- Do not pull or tug on the tube as it may become dislodged.

## 🏠 PCN & Drainage Bag Exchange

- Change drainage bag every 2 weeks and as needed. You may also clean the drainage bag with a mixture of **1 part white vinegar to 3 parts water** once daily, then rinse and air dry.
- PCNs should be changed every 2 to 3 months. Please make sure you have a referral from your urologist and call Radiologist Associates (information below) to schedule your appointment.

## ☎ When to Call your Doctor

- Fever over 100.4°F (38°C) or chills
- Redness, swelling, pus, or increased pain at the site
- Cloudy, foul-smelling, or bloody urine
- Decreased or no urine draining into the bag
- Leakage of urine around the tube
- The tube comes out or appears dislodged



Call (954)276-5500 to schedule your PCN exchange

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