

**BITESIZED
TEACHING**



Catheter management

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A urinary catheter is a flexible tube that is used to empty the bladder and collect urine in a drainage bag.

They are usually inserted by a doctor or nurse. They can either be inserted through the tube that carries urine out of the bladder (urethral catheter) or through a small opening made in the lower stomach (suprapubic catheter).



Reasons for catheterisation

- To allow urine to drain if you have an obstruction in the tube that carries urine out of the bladder (urethra), such as scarring or prostate enlargement
- To allow you to urinate if you have bladder weakness or nerve damage that affects your ability to urinate
- To deliver medication directly into the bladder, such as chemotherapy for bladder cancer
- As a last resort treatment for urinary incontinence when other types of treatment have been unsuccessful



Signs and Symptoms of catheter problems

Catheters are one of the main causes of urinary tract infections (UTI's). The risk is greater if the catheter is left in a place continuously. Symptoms of a catheter induced UTI include:

- Pain low down in the stomach or groin, or around the catheter site
- A high temperature (fever)
- Feeling cold and shivery
- Confusion
- Bladder spasms
- Catheters can be prone to leakage, indicating that it may be blocked
- Blood and debris also indicate that the catheter is blocked



Ward Based Management

- Record and monitor the fluid input/output on the appropriate documentation
- Observe for any signs of blockages on the catheter
- If there are any concerns, take clinical observations and contact the doctor
- Monitor the date and time of catheterisation. Note when it is due to be changed
- If a patient is prone to pulling out their catheter, then contact the doctor