



PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

How to Cap Your Nephroureterostomy Catheter

This information explains how to do a capping trial on your nephroureterostomy catheter.

About Capping Trials

Your doctor may want you to do a capping trial on your nephroureterostomy catheter. This is done to make sure the pathway between your kidney and your bladder is open.

Capping your catheter helps your urine (pee) travel down the catheter into your bladder.

Your nurse may cap your catheter for you while you're in the hospital, but you will need to do it yourself when you're home.

Your urine should be clear yellow before you cap your catheter. You shouldn't have any blood in your urine. If your urine isn't clear yellow, call the Interventional Radiology at 212-639-2236.

How to Cap Your Nephroureterostomy Catheter

1. Gather your supplies. You will need:
 - An alcohol wipe
 - A needleless connector cap
2. Disconnect your drainage tubing from the drainage catheter (see Figure 1).

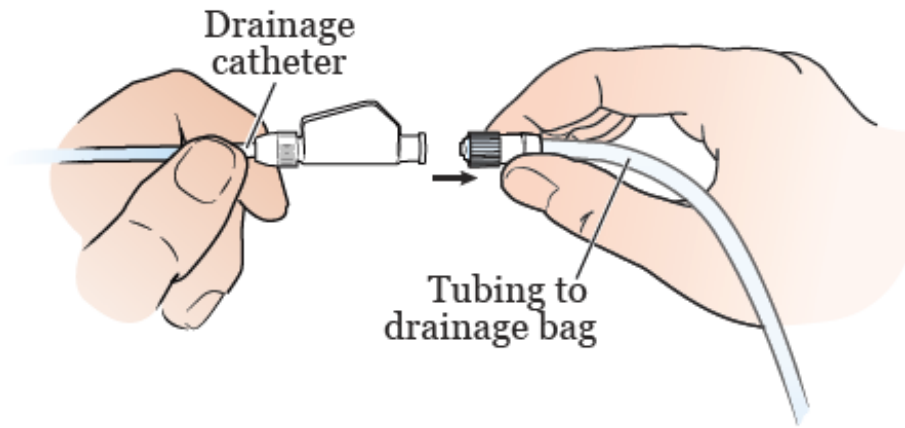


Figure 1. Disconnecting your drainage tubing from the drainage catheter.

3. Using an alcohol wipe, clean the end of your drainage catheter (see Figure 2).

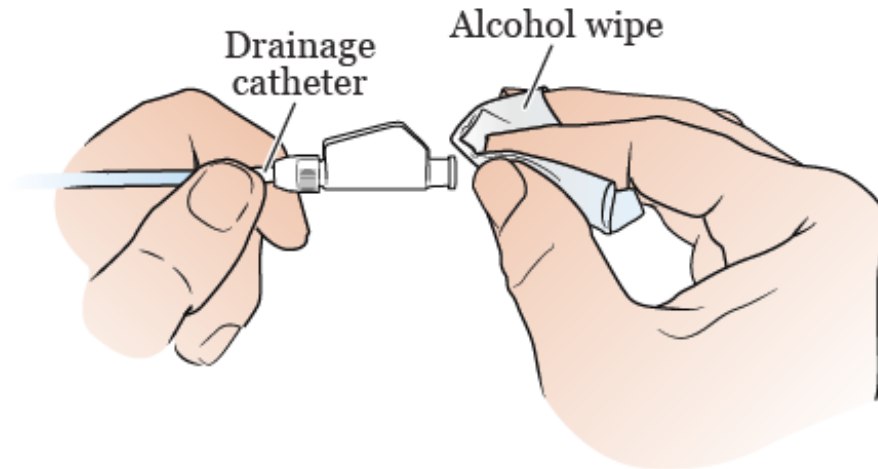


Figure 2. Cleaning the end of your drainage catheter

4. Connect the needleless connector to the end of the catheter (see Figure 3).

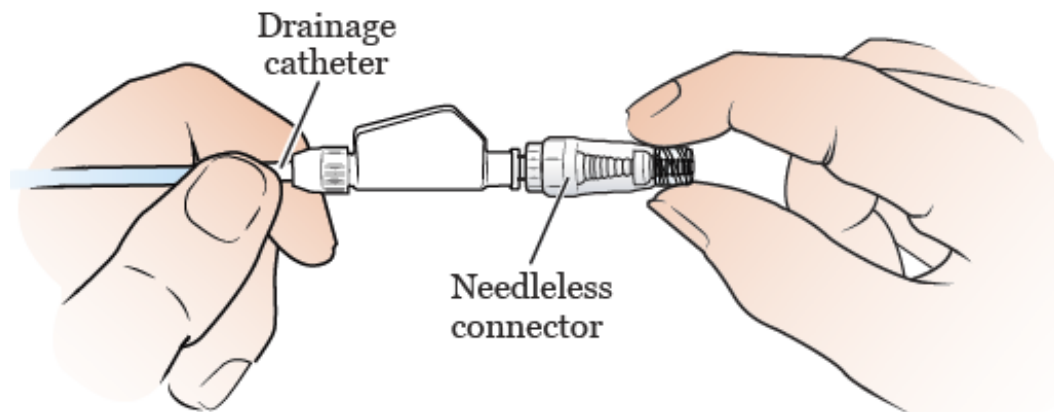


Figure 3. Connecting the needleless connector

While Your Catheter is Capped

If you have a capped nephroureterostomy catheter, you need to watch out for these symptoms:

- A fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher.
- Leaking around your catheter insertion site.
- Pain above your hip or lower back.
- Chills.

These symptoms can happen any time after your catheter is capped. If you have any of these symptoms, call Interventional Radiology and then, uncap your catheter. To do this, remove the needleless connector cap from the catheter and reconnect the catheter to a new drainage bag. Your symptoms should go away within 30 to 45 minutes. If they don't, call Interventional Radiology.

Don't recap your catheter without calling Interventional Radiology.

Contact Information

If you have any questions about if the catheter should be capped or uncapped, call Interventional Radiology at 212-639-2236. You can reach a staff member Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. After 5:00 pm, during the weekend, and on holidays, call 212-639-2000 and ask for the doctor on call for Interventional Radiology.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

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