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You are entitled to a copy of any letter we write about you. Please ask if you want one when you come to the hospital.

If you are unhappy with the advice you have been given by your GP, consultant, or another healthcare professional, you may ask for a second (or further) opinion.

The evidence used in the preparation of this leaflet is available on request. Please email: [patient.information@salisbury.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@salisbury.nhs.uk) if you would like a reference list.

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# Going home with a catheter (page 1 of 2)

This leaflet provides information for patients going home with a urinary catheter. Further information about managing your catheter at home will be given to you before you leave hospital.

Your doctor has advised that you go home with a catheter in your bladder. The length of time you keep it depends on your condition. It could be anything from a few days to several months. In certain circumstances it may be necessary for you to keep your catheter in permanently.

Before you go home your doctor or nurse will explain why you need to keep your catheter in and will give you information on the following:

1. How to manage it at home.
2. If it is to be removed, where and when this will take place.
3. Suprapubic catheters if appropriate.
4. Who to contact if you need help.

## How do I look after my catheter at home?

Before you leave hospital you will be shown how to look after your catheter and drainage system hygienically. You will also be shown how to change your bag or flip-flow valve depending on what has been recommended.

We will tell the community nursing team that you are going home with a catheter, and they will be available to support you for as long as you have one. Your community nurse will also change your catheter when it is required. This is usually at 12 week intervals. Catheters and appliances are available on prescription from your GP.

## Where will my catheter be removed?

Catheters are either removed by the community nurse or by the urology team in the hospital.

If your community nurse is asked to remove your catheter, you will be contacted by them to arrange a date and time for this to be done.

If you are asked to come to the hospital to have your catheter removed, this will usually take place in the Day Surgery Unit who will contact you with the appointment details.

## What if I have a suprapubic catheter?

If you are going home with a temporary suprapubic catheter (placed in the lower part of your abdomen), arrangements will be made for you to return to the hospital to have it removed.

Your appointment for this will be made by telephone or letter. You may be Day Surgery Unit

01722 336262 ext 4550

asked to bring a bladder emptying diary with you. Details of how to do this will be explained to you if applicable.

## **Who can I contact for more information?**

Once you are home your GP and community nurses will continue to support you. The continence nurse specialists and urology nurses are also available for advice over the telephone.

In an emergency please call your GP.

For further information please contact the:

Urology Nurses 01722 336262 ext: 4866 (answerphone) Weekdays 8 am-4 pm,

Day Surgery Unit 01722 336262 ext: 4555 between 7.30am-7pm

After 7pm contact your GP or the NHS 111 service.

Day Surgery Unit

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