

Hemodialysis Catheter Tip Sheet

FOR LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

Do

- Frequently assess the catheter and the exit site
- Provide clothing that allows the catheter to be easily exposed
- Routinely communicate with the dialysis center (include resident's condition, catheter status, interventions, responses, and education with level of understanding)

Don't

- Allow anything to pull or tug on the catheter
- Use scissors or any sharp object near the catheter
- Allow catheter dressings to become wet or soiled
- Allow anyone to draw blood from the catheter

Emergency Action Required	
Catheter pulled out completely	Cover the site with a sterile gauze pad. If bleeding, apply pressure to stop bleeding. Go to the emergency room. Call dialysis unit.
Heavy bleeding from the catheter exit site	Cover the site with a sterile gauze pad. Apply pressure to stop bleeding. Go to the emergency room. Call dialysis unit.
Catheter open and extreme loss of blood	Clamp catheter to stop bleeding. Assess resident. Go to the emergency room. Call the dialysis unit.
Immediate Action Required	
Catheter clamp is missing; there is no blood loss	Call dialysis unit
Catheter end cap is missing; there is no blood loss	Call dialysis unit
Catheter pulled out of place	Secure catheter and call dialysis unit
Exit site is red, warm, has increased drainage, is swollen, irritated, or painful	Call dialysis unit
Resident with catheter has a new fever	Call dialysis unit
Action Required: Same Day	
Dressing is loose	Reinforce with tape or transparent dressing; call dialysis unit
Dressing is missing	Call dialysis unit to arrange for a new dressing
Dressing is wet or soiled	Call dialysis unit to arrange for a new dressing