

After a urinary catheter

What can I expect after my child has had a catheter?

The bladder and urethra (opening to the bladder) will be irritated for 24 to 48 hours. As a result, your child may:

- hesitate to urinate.
- urinate often.
- feel stinging or soreness when urinating.
- have pinkish urine.
- not be able to hold the urine.
- wet the bed.

These problems should go away after urinating a few times.

How do I care for my child?

Reassure your child that any discomfort he or she feels will only last a short time.

Offer comfort measures that you and your child already know are helpful (for example, snuggling together, watching movies, a backrub). For more ideas, see the education sheet, "Helping children cope with medical procedures."

Give extra fluids to help dilute the urine and make it less irritating.

Sitting in a bathtub of warm water (no soap or bubble bath in the water) may also help your child feel more comfortable. If it hurts to urinate, encourage urinating in the water.

When should I call the clinic?

- pain with urination continues or increases.
- blood in the urine continues or increases.
- not urinating at least every 8 hours.
- unable to urinate upon waking in the morning.
- any other problems or concerns.

Questions?

This sheet is not specific to your child but provides general information. If you have any questions, please call the clinic.

For more reading material about this and other health topics, please call or visit the Family Resource Center library, or visit our Web site: www.childrensmn.org.

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