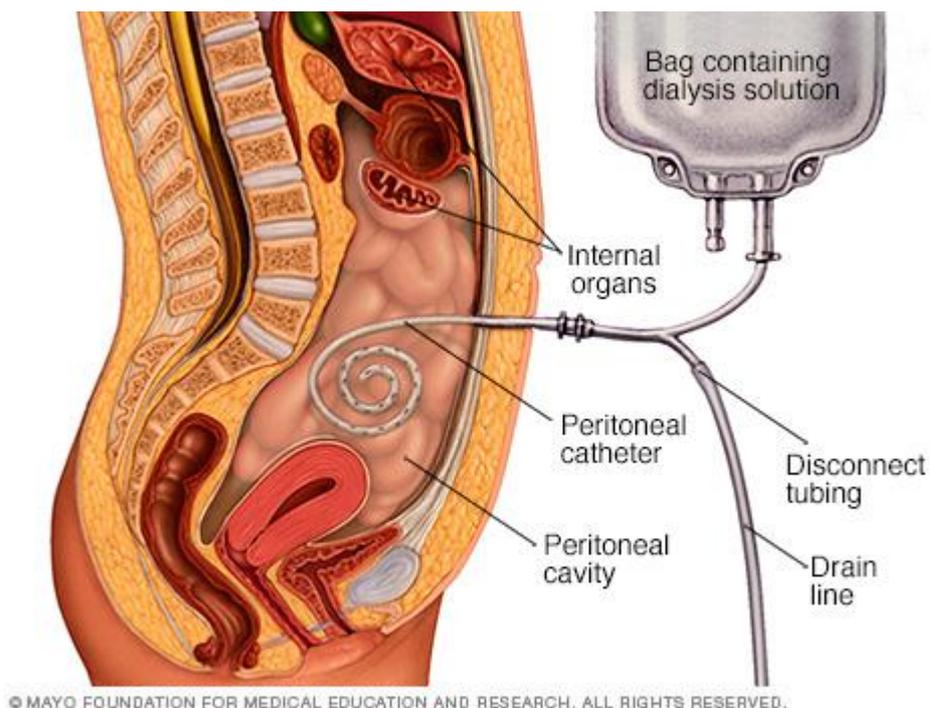


Renal Services

Bowel Preparation for Peritoneal Dialysis

You have decided to commence Peritoneal Dialysis (PD) we look forward to making your transition as easy as possible, and we hope you find everything helpful.

Due to the area your PD catheter is situated, one of the most important considerations is your bowels. As you can see by this picture your tube will be affected by constipation.

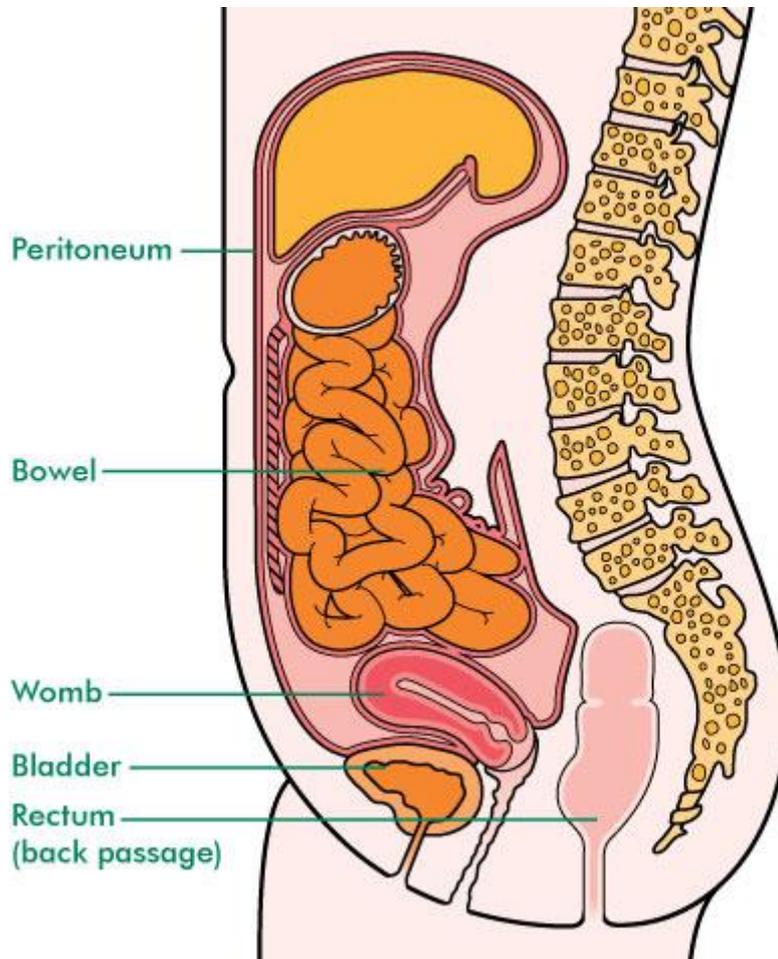


We ask that you take your laxatives as prescribed by the medical team, this is usually 1 x Picolax sachet the week prior to catheter insertion, 1 x Picolax the day before the catheter insertion, and then 1 x Picolax per week until commencement of PD training. Also 15 mls Lactulose in the morning and the evening, and 2 x Senna tablets at night.



Patient Information

The tube (catheter) that you use to dialyse with is very pliable and can become squashed, this will mean the fluid will most likely not go into your peritoneal cavity, or come out if you are constipated.



As you can see by the picture above the bowels fill around the cavity, and if your bowels are full of faeces treatment will not be able to take place.

Even when you think you cannot possibly be constipated you may be surprised to know that old faeces can stay in the bowels for a long time, and it is very difficult to move it.

When a person's tube is not working as it should the most likely cause is constipation.

You may find that with all of the laxatives you are being asked to take your bowel habits change, just because you start going to the toilet more frequently, this is not a bad thing. We often expect a patient to have their bowels open twice a day as a minimum.

If you continue to have problems with the flows of fluid in and out of your catheter we will send you for an x-ray, usually we find the cause is constipation.

Patient Information

We cannot stress enough that you **NEED** to take your laxatives, you **NEED** to be going to the toilet more frequently, you **NEED** to clear your bowels ready for your catheter insertion, and you **NEED** to have an empty bowel for the tube to work.

Please help us to help you, take your laxatives.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this Information in another language or format please contact PD department on 02476 968308 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy

Document History

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