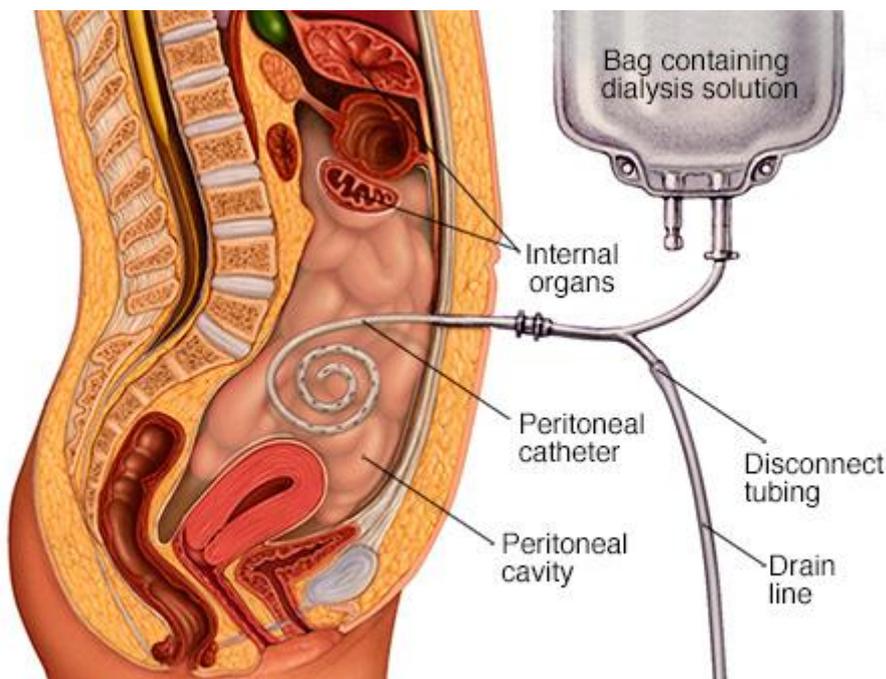


## Renal Services

# Bowel preparation for peritoneal dialysis

You have decided to start peritoneal dialysis (PD). We look forward to making your transition as easy as possible, and we hope you find the following information helpful.

The catheter used for dialysis is situated in the peritoneal cavity and you can see from the image below that the tube is surrounded by your bowel.



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If the bowel is full due to constipation, this will affect fluid running in and



## Patient Information

out of the cavity. This can make dialysis very difficult and in severe cases, can cause the catheter to move. If the catheter moves, then it may mean further procedures to put it back into the correct position.

Even if you think you cannot possibly be constipated, old faeces can stay in the bowels for a long time, and it can be very difficult to move them.

We ask that you take your laxatives as prescribed by the medical team.

- 1 x Picolax sachet the week prior to catheter insertion
- 1 x Picolax sachet the day before the catheter insertion
- 1 x Picolax sachet per week until the start of PD training.

You will also be prescribed

- Lactulose 15mls twice a day
- Senna – 2 tablets at night

These are continued whilst you are on peritoneal dialysis, although they may be adjusted once you are established on dialysis. We expect a patient to have their bowels open at least 2 times a day.

If you have continual problems with the flows of fluid in and out of your catheter, we will send you for an X-ray. Usually we find that the cause is constipation.

### **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
- you **need** to have an empty bowel for the tube to work

Please help us to help you and **take your laxatives.**

## Patient Information

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this Information in another language or format, please contact the PD department on 024 7696 8308 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

To give feedback on this leaflet please email [feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk](mailto:feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk)

### Document History

Department:	Renal Services
Contact:	28308
Updated:	August 2022
Review:	August 2025
Version:	2.1
Reference:	HIC/LFT/2351/19