

## Renal

# Removal of a vascular catheter (temporary or permanent cuffed tunnelled vascular catheter)

**When your vascular catheter is no longer needed for haemodialysis, the nursing staff will arrange for it to be removed.**

You'll be given a date and time for the removal of the catheter. This will be on a non-dialysis day. Your catheter will be removed in the Day Unit on Ward 50 (next to the Haemodialysis Unit).

## Medication

If you take aspirin, clopidogrel or warfarin, you may need to stop taking it before your catheter is removed. This decision will be made on an individual basis and will depend on the reason the medication has been prescribed. You should discuss this with your doctor and nursing staff at least one week before the appointment.

On the day of the removal of either a temporary or permanent catheter, you'll be asked to attend the Renal Day Unit on Ward 50. You'll be asked to wear a gown so the vascular catheter site is easily accessible.



## Patient Information

The nurse who looks after you will explain the procedure to you as follows:

### **If you have a temporary vascular catheter**

One of the members of the nursing team will remove your catheter. You'll be asked to take a deep breath in and hold it until the catheter is removed. The nurse will apply pressure for 5 – 10 minutes to make the site doesn't bleed. A dressing will be applied and can be removed after 7 days when healing has taken place.

### **If you have a cuffed tunnelled permanent catheter**

A member of the medical team (a doctor) will remove this. You'll be given a local anaesthetic to numb the area. The procedure shouldn't be painful, but you may experience a pulling sensation as they remove the catheter. After removal, stitches and a dressing will be applied to the area, and the nurse will check the site for bleeding.

You'll be asked to stay for up to two hours after the catheter is removed to make sure any bleeding has stopped and that you're fit and well enough to return home.

## **Follow-up care**

Follow-up care will be carried out by the nurses in the Haemodialysis Unit or the practice nurse at your GP surgery.

The renal doctors and nurses will advise you when to recommence your aspirin, clopidogrel or warfarin tablets as necessary. **Please ask the doctors about your prescription if you're unsure.**

If you experience any problems following your catheter removal, please contact Ward 50 on 024 7696 8259 or the Haemodialysis Unit on 024 7696 7777.

If you experience excessive heavy bleeding, apply pressure to the area and dial 999 for an ambulance to bring you to the hospital.

## Patient Information

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact 024 7696 7777 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke-free policy.

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#### Document History

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