INSTRUCTIONS FOR PATIENTS WITH CATHETER BAGS

Clean around the catheter insertion site daily with soap and water. Check catheter tubing periodically to be sure the tubing is not kinked.

**Overnight drainage bag**: larger bag with long tubing. This bag should be used during the night. Be sure to hang the bag over the side of the bed below the level of your bladder so that urine will flow easily.

**Leg bag**: smaller collection bag with short tubing. This bag can be used when you go out of your house because the smaller bag is easily hidden beneath your clothing. The leg bag must remain below the level of your bladder to drain easily.

To disconnect or change your drainage bag follow these steps:
- Pinch the catheter above the drainage bag connection to stop the flow of urine.
- Disconnect the tubing and bag from the catheter with a twisting motion.
- Clean both the end of the new tubing AND the connection site of the catheter with an alcohol pad.
- Insert the new tubing into the catheter.
- Clean the end of the tubing that was removed with an alcohol pad.

To reduce the risk of infection, please minimize the number of times you switch between bags.

If you get repeated bladder infections, spasms, and/or other problems, you should use only the overnight drainage bag. On occasion, the catheter may leak at the insertion site; this may be normal and is caused by bladder spasms. There is no reason to be alarmed unless the catheter leaks all the time and/or there is no urine in the drainage bag.

To clean and deodorize the drainage bags:
- Fill the bag with a solution of 2 parts vinegar and 3 parts water and let it soak for 20 minutes.
- Hanging it with the emptying spout pointing downward can dry drainage bags. Do not hang the bag over heat.

What to report:
- Urine has a strong odor or becomes cloudy
- You experience chills, fever above 100.4 F, lower back pain
- Pus at catheter insertion site
- Swelling at the catheter insertion site
- The catheter is not draining any urine