

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for
securing indwelling catheters (adult patients)

Document Details		
Title	Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for securing indwelling catheters (adult patients)	
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1	Oct 2023	New Standard Operating Procedure

Standard Operating Procedure for securing indwelling catheters (adult patients)

All suprapubic and urethra catheters, and associated drainage bags and catheter valves must be secured appropriately

This will minimise risk of:

- **Pain**
- **Bleeding**
- **Swelling, necrosis, erosion or tearing to the urethra and penile / labial tissues**
- **Damage to the bladder neck**
- **Bladder spasm and associated urinary bypassing**
- **Catheter falling out**
- **Unplanned catheter changes**
- **Urinary tract infections**

Patients should be encouraged and taught how to secure their own catheters, if clinically appropriate

If the catheter and drainage bag / catheter valve is being secured to the patient's thigh or calve, discussion must be undertaken with the patient, to decide which leg to use

Male genitals, naturally rest to the left or right of their trouser crotch. So this must be taken into account

Clinical judgment must be applied if the patient has a leg amputation, impaired skin integrity in their genital area, wounds / impaired circulation / neuropathy or significant oedema in their legs

All leg bag straps / bag sleeves / retaining straps / retaining adhesive devices must be left insitu during bathing or showering, to support the catheter

They can then be changed following the bath / shower, for a dry one

Ensure that all catheters, Belly bags, leg bags, catheter valves, leg bag straps, leg bag sleeves, retaining straps and retaining adhesive devices, are positioned appropriately to avoid pressure damage to the skin, when the patient is mobilising, standing, sitting or lying

Leg bags must be secured below the level of the patient's bladder (thigh or calve), with x2 velcro leg bag straps or a leg bag sleeve, to support the weight of the bag



Leg bag straps must be threaded 'under' the bag, so that urine flow is not occluded

Straps and sleeves must be changed / washed as soon as they become soiled, damaged or loose their elasticity

Clinical judgement should be used and discussion undertaken with the patient / wider multidisciplinary team, to identify whether patient is going to be more comfortable using leg bag straps or leg bags sleeves. Especially if the patient has impaired skin integrity / wounds / impaired circulation / neuropathy or significant oedema in their legs

The patient's thigh / calve circumference must be measured, to ascertain which size of leg bag sleeve is required

Follow manufacturers instructions to apply and remove leg bag straps and leg bag sleeves

Belly bags must be secured with the integral strap, around the patient's abdomen, and adjusted to fit comfortably, to support the weight of the bag



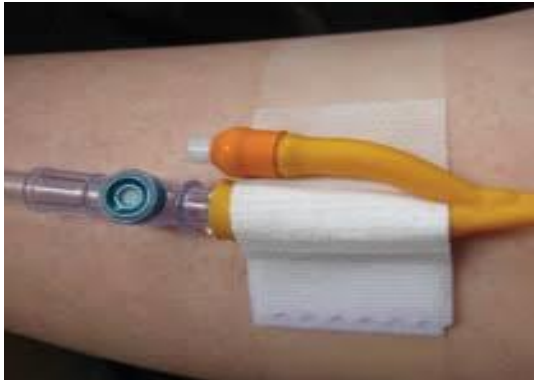
Follow manufacturers instructions to apply and remove the Belly bag strap

Catheters must also be secured against the patient's thigh or abdomen with a retaining strap or adhesive device

Coloplast G-strap



Clinifix Universal Tube Fixation device



Bard Statlock Foley Stabilisation device



Retaining straps must be changed / washed as soon as they become soiled, damaged or lose their elasticity

Adhesive devices must be changed as soon as they become soiled, damaged or lose their adherence; and at least every 7 days

Clinical judgement should be used and discussion undertaken with the patient / wider multidisciplinary team, to identify whether patient is going to be more comfortable using a strap or adhesive device. Especially if the patient has impaired skin integrity / fragile skin / allergies to adhesive / wounds / impaired circulation / neuropathy or significant oedema in their legs

The retaining strap or adhesive device, must be applied so that catheter can still move with the patient. The catheter must not be pulled taught by the retaining strap or adhesive device

Follow manufacturers instruction to apply and remove the retaining straps and adhesive devices

Catheter valves must be secured against the patient's thigh or abdomen, with a retaining strap or adhesive device, as above

Offer patient / family / carer education about securing catheters effectively, and check for understanding

Supply 'Patient Information - Indwelling Catheters' leaflet to patient

Refer to Trust document on Staffzone:

CONT013 Patient Information – Indwelling Catheters

<https://www.shropscommunityhealth.nhs.uk/content/doclib/11213.docx>