



Using a Leg Bag with Your Foley Catheter

A leg bag is a smaller size urine collection bag for your Foley or urinary catheter. The leg bag can be worn on your leg to collect urine during times when you are out of bed.

Supplies

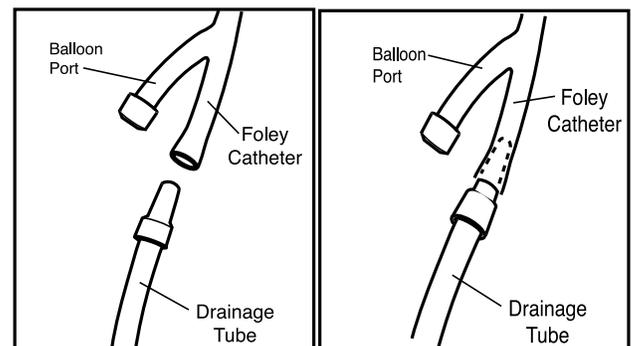
- Alcohol and cotton balls
- Soap and water
- Wash cloth and towel
- Leg bag with strap
- Tape or thigh strap

Before you change the bag

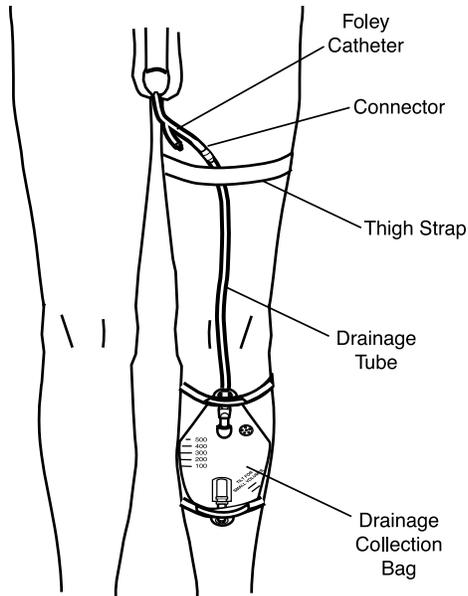
1. Gather your supplies.
2. Wash your hands with soap and water. If this is not possible, you may also use alcohol-based hand sanitizer to clean your hands.
3. If you have a new leg bag, measure and cut the tubing, so you can wear the bag on your lower leg with your leg slightly bent. **Do not cut the catheter tube.**
4. Do your catheter care as instructed.
5. Empty the large urine collection bag.
6. Wash your hands again with soap and water. If this is not possible, you may also use alcohol-based hand sanitizer to clean your hands.

How to change the collection large bag to the leg bag

1. Use the cotton ball with rubbing alcohol to clean the connection between the catheter tubing and the large collection bag tubing.
2. Place a towel under the connection so urine will not drip onto your leg.
3. Pinch off the soft rubber tubing, so urine will not leak out.
4. Disconnect your catheter from the large collection bag tubing with a twisting motion. **Be careful not to pull** on your catheter.
5. Place the large collection bag with tubing on the towel.
6. Connect the drainage tube from the small leg bag to the catheter.



7. Place the leg bag on your calf with the straps provided.
8. Be sure the catheter is secure on your upper leg with tape or a thigh strap to prevent pulling the catheter.



9. Clean the large collection bag and tubing with vinegar and water and hang it in the shower or tub to dry.
10. Wash your hands with soap and water. If this is not possible, you may also use alcohol-based hand sanitizer to clean your hands.

Precautions

- Keep the collection bag lower than the level of your hips to prevent urine from flowing back into your bladder.
- The leg bag is smaller. You will need to empty it more often than your large collection bag.
- Drink 8 to 10 cups of water or other caffeine-free fluids each day unless you are to limit fluids.

- Clean your leg bag and large collection bag at least every other day. Clean each bag with a solution of vinegar and water that is 1 part vinegar and 3 parts water unless told otherwise by a member of your health care team.
- Change your old bags to new bags every 2 weeks or as directed.

When to call your doctor

Call your doctor if you have any of the following:

- Burning or pain in your lower abdomen (belly)
- Pain or aching in your back, around the area of your kidneys
- Urine that smells bad
- Chills or fever of 100.5 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) or higher
- Pain, redness, swelling, itching or burning near or where the catheter leaves your body
- Feeling that your bladder is full or that your catheter is plugged
- Urine that looks bloody, dark golden or cloudy
- No drainage of urine
- Urine leaking around your tube
- Confusion or changes in how you act
- Your catheter falls out
- If you had surgery and you have more urine leaking or bloody drainage than you were told to expect

Talk to your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.

For more health information, go to patienteducation.osumc.edu or contact the Library for Health Information at 614-293-3707 or health-info@osu.edu.