This catheter or tube allows access into your blood stream until your graft, or fistula, is ready. There are two common places where temporary catheters are placed. **Only one of these places will be used.**

- Internal jugular vein in the neck
- Femoral vein in your groin

**Internal Jugular Temporary Dialysis Catheter**

This catheter or tube is placed by a doctor. A dressing will be placed over the site and you will have an x-ray taken before the temporary catheter is used. The catheter has several openings or ports. One opening is to remove the blood from your body and the other opening is where the clean blood is returned to your body. These openings will be flushed with Heparin or Citrate to keep them open and caps will be placed on each opening.

The catheter may remain in place for as long as two weeks. The dressing will be changed each time you come to the Dialysis Center. You may take a shower after 24 hours. When you take a bath or shower, all the catheter and dressing must be covered with a plastic wrap, such as Saran Wrap™ or Glad Wrap™.

**Care at home for a dialysis catheter**

- If you had a catheter placed **do not:**
  - Pull out the catheter
  - Remove the dressing
  - Take the caps off your dialysis catheter
- If the catheter should come out:
  - Lay down
  - Put pressure with your hand directly over where the catheter was
  - Call 911 or an ambulance and get to the nearest hospital
- Call your doctor or nurse if you have:
  - Bleeding, swelling, tenderness at the site of the catheter
  - Redness at the site
  - Fever or chills
  - Pain at the site
Removal of a dialysis catheter

After two weeks your doctor may want your temporary catheter removed to prevent infection.

When your dialysis treatment is completed, your nurse will place you in a flat position and put a mask over your face and nose to remove the stitches around your catheter. You will be asked to take a deep breath and hold it for a few seconds while the catheter is being pulled out, then you will be able to breathe normally. This should not hurt. Pressure will be applied for 20 minutes or until bleeding has stopped.

A dressing taped on all sides will be placed over the site for 24 hours. If there is no bleeding, you may remove the dressing and put a band-aid over it.

• Continue to watch for:
  ▶ Pain or tenderness at the site
  ▶ Redness at the site
  ▶ Fever or chills
  ▶ Problems breathing
  ▶ Bleeding and swelling

Femoral dialysis catheter

A femoral catheter may be placed by a doctor into a large vein in your groin. A dressing will be placed over the site and the catheter will be ready to use right away.

Your catheter will be taken out by the dialysis nurse at the end of each treatment. After your catheter is out, pressure will be applied to the site for at least 20 minutes and a dressing will be placed on the site for 24 hours. You will need to remain flat and in the Dialysis Center for at least one hour after your catheter has been pulled.

When you are ready to leave, you will be taken to your car in a wheelchair. Keep your leg as straight as possible for 4 hours after you are home.

Do not bend your leg if at all possible. If you start to bleed, apply pressure directly to the incision. Call 911 to get an Emergency Department. You may remove the dressing after 24 hours and place a band-aid over the site.
• **Call your doctor right away for:**
  ▶ Bleeding, swelling, tenderness at the site
  ▶ Redness at the site
  ▶ Fever or chills
  ▶ Pain at the site

• Changes to the blood flow in your foot or leg on the side of the site, such as:
  ▶ cool or cold feeling to toes or feet
  ▶ toes turn blue in color
  ▶ numbness
  ▶ tingling

• You may take a shower in 24 hours if no bleeding at the site occurs.

If you would like more written information, please call the Library for Health Information at (614)293-3707. You can also make the request by e-mail: health-info@osu.edu.