Leg Bag

A leg bag is a smaller size drainage bag for your Foley catheter. The leg bag can be worn on your leg during the day to collect urine.

Supplies

- Alcohol and cotton balls
- Soap and water
- Wash cloth and towel
- Leg strap

Changing the large bag to a small leg bag

- Gather your supplies.
- Wash your hands with soap and water.
- Do your catheter care as instructed.
- Empty the large drainage bag.
- Wash your hands again with soap and water.

This handout is for informational purposes only. Talk with your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.

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• Use the cotton ball with alcohol to clean the connection between the Foley catheter tubing (soft rubber tubing) and the large drainage collection bag tubing.

• Place a towel under the connection to keep urine from dripping onto your leg.

• Pinch off the soft rubber tubing so urine will not leak out.

• Disconnect the Foley from the large drainage bag tubing with a twisting motion.

  **Be careful not to pull on your catheter.** Place the large drainage bag on the towel.

• Connect the small leg bag tubing.

• The tubing from the leg bag should be measured and cut to fit down to your calf with your leg slightly bent.

• Place the leg bag on your calf with the straps provided. Use a leg strap to secure the tubing to your thigh.

• Clean the large drainage bag with soap and water and hang it in the shower or tub to dry.

• Wash your hands with soap and water.
Precautions

- Keep the urine drainage bag below the level of your bladder. This will help prevent urine from flowing back into your bladder.
- The leg bag is smaller and will need to be emptied more often than the large drainage bag.
- Drink 8 to 10 glasses of water each day.
- If you need to use the leg bag longer than 2 weeks, clean the leg bag and the large drainage bag at least every other day.
- Clean each bag with a solution of vinegar and water that is 1 part vinegar and 2 parts water or as you are instructed.
- Change the old bags to new bags every 2 weeks.

When to call your doctor

Call your doctor if you have any of the following:

- Urine is cloudy or has a foul odor
- Temperature of 100.4 degrees F or 38 degrees C or higher
- Unusual itching, rash or burning near or where the catheter leaves the body
- Feeling of bladder fullness or concern that the catheter is plugged
- Blood in your urine
- No drainage of urine
- Urine leaking around the tube
- Catheter falls out

If you had surgery and you have more urine leaking or bloody drainage than you were told to expect