



Pigtail Drain aftercare: Information for patients

What is a pigtail drain?

A Pigtail Drainage Catheter is a thin tube that is inserted to drain unwanted fluid from an area within the body.

How long can the drain stay insitu for?

The Pigtail Drainage Catheter can stay in place for up to three months. When a new catheter is needed your General Practitioner (GP) or Urology Consultant will refer you to the Radiology department.

Will I need to be admitted to hospital when the drain is replaced?

No, usually this procedure can be done as an out-patient as no sedation should be needed, the procedure will take approximately one hour.

How is the drain held in place?

The drain is held in place by a dressing called a Statlock. This dressing is a stabilisation device that your pigtail drain will be secured into to prevent the drain from moving.

How often is the dressing and drainage bag replaced and by who?

Your dressing and drainage bag should be changed every week. This will be done by a specially trained practice nurse, community nurse or a relative can be taught how to do this if that is appropriate.

How do I order the dressings and bags?

The Radiology department will supply the dressings and drainage bags. You can either call direct on the numbers below or via your Community team or GP. They will need to be collected from Scanning reception on the ground floor at the Great Western Hospital, between the hours of 08:30-17:00 Monday to Friday. Dressings and drainage bags will not be sent in the post.

Who do I contact if I have any problems with the drain? What if it falls out or moves?

If you notice any signs of infection at the entry site then please contact your GP.

If you feel that your drain has fallen out or if you notice that it has stopped draining then please contact the Radiology team on the numbers below and we will arrange for you to be seen as a matter of urgency. If there are any concerns out of hours



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please call your out of hours GP, go to an Urgent Care Centre or dial 111 for some advice.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact the Radiology nurses on 01793 605056 or phone the main switchboard on 01793 604020 and ask the operator to bleep 2161 (08:30-17:00 Monday-Friday excluding bank holidays).

Smoking will not be permitted on any NHS site in England. Smoking will not be permitted within any of our buildings or anywhere outside on our sites. Smoking facilities will not be provided. Please be considerate of others when vaping in hospital grounds.

This information sheet is available to order in other languages and formats. If you would like a copy, please contact us on 01793 604031 or email gwh.pals@nhs.net

Document Control

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