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nationwidechildrens.org

CATHETER IRRIGATION: CLEAN PROCEDURE

A catheter (small tube) has been passed through the urethra and into the child's bladder to drain the urine. Catheter irrigations (washings) are done to keep this tube open and clean. It's important to follow these directions carefully to help protect your child's urinary system from infection.

YOU WILL NEED

- 60 mL. catheter tip syringe Small pan Measuring cup

DOCTOR'S ORDER

Irrigate catheter with _____ ounces of _____ (irrigating solution)
_____ times per day.

HOW TO IRRIGATE THE CATHETER

1. Wash your hands.
2. Pour _____ ounces of irrigating solution into the measuring cup.
3. Put the tip of the 60 mL. syringe into this solution. Draw the correct amount of solution into the syringe.
4. Place the tip of the syringe into the end of the catheter. Let the solution to flow into the catheter. Use very gentle pressure to make the solution flow. Do this by gently pushing on the plunger.
5. Leave the plunger pushed in to avoid bladder discomfort, then disconnect the syringe from the catheter.
6. You may be told to *aspirate* (pull back the solution) into the syringe. Gently pull back on the plunger until the syringe is full or until resistance is met. This will remove mucus and other matter from the bladder. Throw away the solution and repeat these steps until the solution is clear again.
7. Place the end of the catheter in the small pan. Let the solution flow into the small pan. Measure the urine in a measuring cup to make sure the solution you put in flows back out.

WHEN TO CALL THE DOCTOR

Call your doctor (phone) _____ or the Urology Clinic at (614) 722-5800 if any of these things happen:

- You can't get the solution into the catheter very easily.
- The same amount of solution you put in does not drain out.
- Urine continues to be cloudy or dark in color.
- Your child has a fever over 101°F by mouth or over 102°F rectally for several hours.
- If there is any leakage around the tube.

If you have any questions, please ask your doctor or nurse or call _____.