



Caring for Your PTCD Tube

UHN

Caring for your biliary tube will take a team effort. You and the Interventional Radiology team will work together to keep your PTCD working well and free from infection.

How to Care for your PTCD tube

The PTCD tube is in a place that makes it hard for you to take care of it yourself. You will need help. We can train a family member to help you or work with your local Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) to have a community nurse help you.

What you need to know about the dressing on your PTCD tube

- At first, the biliary drainage tube may be stitched to your skin.
- For longer term, we usually fasten the catheter to the skin using a stable tube dressing.
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- We use dry gauze to cover the cut in your skin where your PTCD catheter goes in. This is the only part of the dressing that you or your helper should change.
- If the clear dressing from your stable dressing comes loose, tape it down until a nurse can change the whole dressing. Do not remove this clear dressing. Your tube could fall out.

We will give you a brochure called stable tube dressing to show you how to change your dressing.

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Other important points to remember

- Keep the bag that is attached to your tube securely in place. To protect your tube, pin the bag to your clothes using safety pins. Or use the leg straps to keep it in place.
- There should be no tension or stretching on the tube connected to the bag.
- Keep the skin around your tube dry.
- When you shower, if your tube area gets wet, dry the skin completely.
- Clean the skin around the tube every day using soap and water. You can cover the tube with sterile gauze if you like.
- **Make an appointment to have your tube changed every 3 or 4 months or when problems happen.**

What problems can happen?

Please see the chart below to learn about problems you might have. This chart also explains how to prevent these problems and how to deal with them when they do happen.

Type of infection	How to prevent the problem	How to treat the problem
<p>Skin infection</p> <p>You may have redness, soreness or swelling of the skin around the PTCD catheter.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean your catheter and the entry site to your catheter once or twice every day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change your dressing 2 times every day. • Clean your tube and skin with Normal Saline (you can buy it at your pharmacy). • Put an antibiotic ointment (for example Polysporin[®]) around the catheter insertion site every time you change your dressing. • Then put dry, sterile gauze over the tube. <p>*Do this for 1 week. If it does not get better after 2 days, tell the doctor who ordered this tube for you.</p>

Type of infection	How to prevent the problem	How to treat the problem
<p>Pain</p> <p>In the beginning, pain usually happens because the tube is irritating the skin. This happens sometimes.</p>	<p>It is hard to prevent this type of pain.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over time, the pain decreases and becomes unnoticeable. • If the pain gets worse, make an appointment to see the Interventional Radiology team. We will check to make sure that your tube is working correctly and that there are no problems. • If the pain continues and the tube is not the problem, see your doctor about the pain.
<p>Tube is displaced or dislodged</p> <p>Your catheter looks like it has partly come out or is completely out.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure that your bag is firmly in place. • Use safety pins or leg straps. • Do not pull off the see-through dressing without help. • Check your dressing every day to make sure it is securely in place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call the Interventional radiology department to make an appointment for that same day. • After regular hours or on weekends, go to the Emergency department. • If your tube is partly out, tape it in place. It is important to keep it in as much as possible because your new tube can go in through the same opening and tract. • If your tube is out completely, call us right away. The tract quickly closes and makes it difficult when you are having it replaced.



Type of infection	How to prevent the problem	How to treat the problem
<p>Fever and Chills If you have fever and chills, you may have an infection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rinse your external drainage bag out with water everyday. Keep your appointments to change your tube every 3 or 4 months. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If your tube is capped, uncap it and connect it to a drainage bag. If bile drains well, your fever and chills will probably go away. Call the booking department to make an appointment to have your tube changed within the next 2 or 3 days. <p>The number is: _____.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On weekends or holidays, please go to the Emergency Department at Toronto General or Toronto Western Hospitals.
<p>Bile leaking from around your tube If there is enough to soak your gauze, it usually means that your PTCO tube is blocked.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look to see if you have any kinks in the tubing. If you do, straighten them out. If you don't it means that you have a blockage. It is hard to prevent a blockage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If your tube is clamped, attach it to a drainage bag. This lets bile drain externally. Call the booking department to make an appointment for a tube change on the next day.

Who to call if you have any questions

If you have any problems with your PTCO tube, call the Medical Imaging department and ask to speak with a radiology nurse.

The number is: _____.
The hours are: Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



For routine tube changes, you may call our booking desk to make an appointment.

When you call, tell the booking clerk that you need an outpatient appointment in the Interventional Radiology department.

The number is: _____

The hours are: Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

If you have questions about your percutaneous transhepatic drainage tube, or if you need other information, please call the Medical Imaging department.

Ask to speak with a nurse.

The number is: _____

