

This picture shows a person's abdomen with the catheter in it

Your PDC is your lifeline and your only access for PD. It must be kept clean, dry, safe and secure always.

Use the Micropore tape provided by your PD nurse to secure the tip of the PDC, to prevent from dangling and accidental pulling.

Do not use scissors or sharp objects near your PDC to avoid damage and contamination.

When will my PDC be used?

Sometimes PDC can be used immediately if urgent dialysis is needed. However, it is best to let it rest for 2 – 3 weeks to allow for proper healing. During the healing period, the PD nurses will flush your PDC weekly to keep it functioning well. Once your wounds have healed and your PDC is ready, the PD nurse will schedule your dialysis training.

Going home

You may go home in 24 – 48 hours after PDC insertion. It is important to maintain regular bowel movements to avoid constipation, which can affect your catheter. If necessary, you can use coloxyl with senna, movicol or lactulose to avoid constipation.

Important

Contact the PD unit during hours of operation or go to the emergency department after hours if you notice:

1. Excessive bleeding or leaking from the surgical wound, and/or
2. Signs of infection such as fever, chills, feeling unwell, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, or pain around the catheter site.

For further information contact:

Peritoneal Dialysis Unit
Monday – Friday 7.30 am – 4pm
02 9113 3770

Or

4 South Medical Ward

After Hours, Weekends and Public Holidays
02 9113 3458 or 3448

(Request to speak to a senior nurse for PD – related advice)



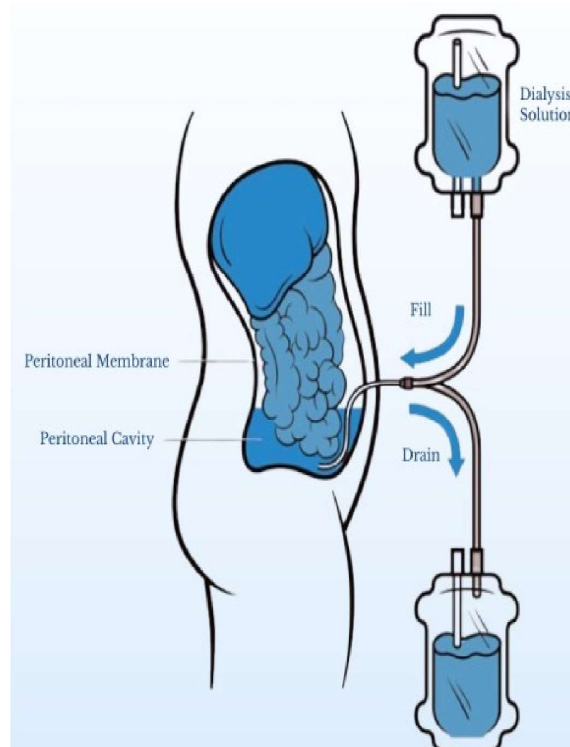
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St George Hospital
Consumer Advisory Group
Working together

South Eastern Sydney
Local Health District

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Peritoneal Dialysis and Peritoneal Dialysis Catheter



What is Peritoneal Dialysis or PD?

Peritoneal dialysis (PD) is a treatment for kidney failure that can be done at home. After training provided by the PD nurses, you will learn to manage your own dialysis at the comfort of your own home.

PD involves running dialysis fluid in and out of the abdomen through a peritoneal dialysis catheter (PDC). The dialysis fluid removes waste and excess fluid using the lining of the abdomen (the peritoneum) as a natural filter.

What is a PD catheter?

A peritoneal dialysis catheter or PDC is a soft, plastic tube placed into your abdomen (peritoneal cavity) to allow dialysis fluid to flow in and out.

The catheter is inserted by a surgeon in a hospital operating theatre. Before the procedure, you will attend a Pre-Admission Clinic for health assessment and to prepare for surgery.

Your PDC is your only access to PD. It is your lifeline. It is designed for long-term use and will require proper care to prevent infection and issues.

Before the PDC insertion

You may need to come to hospital the day before surgery to begin:

1. Antiseptic showers
2. Preventative antibiotics
3. Bladder and bowel preparation

You will also receive fasting instructions and be asked to sign a consent form for the procedure.

A PD nurse may visit you — use this time to ask any questions about your upcoming dialysis treatment.

On the day of the PDC insertion

If you are booked in day surgery, please arrive early. You'll be transferred to the operating theatre from the day surgery unit.

If you are already admitted in the hospital, you will be taken to the procedure room directly from the ward.

After the PDC insertion

After the procedure, you will be transferred to the ward. You may feel drowsy and have some discomfort over the area. Ask for pain relief if needed. Ward nurses will closely monitor your blood pressure, temperature, pulse and your PDC wound site. Ask for laxatives if constipated.

Your PDC will be flushed with a small amount of fluid to ensure it is flowing freely. It will be placed on either the left or right side of your abdomen. A small amount of bleeding or oozing is normal.

Please inform the nurses if you notice:

1. Excessive bleeding
2. Ongoing oozing or leaking
3. Increased pain around the site

The Dressing

The PDC exit site will be covered with a special dressing to remain for 7 days. It will be redressed weekly for 2 – 3 weeks to support wound healing and sealing. After this period, dressing should be changed daily or after showering. PD nurses will teach you how to change your PDC exit site dressing and inspect for signs of infection as part of your daily PDC care routine.

Hygiene and care

Do not shower for three weeks, to keep the dressing dry and allow the wound to heal and seal. Your PD nurse will let you know when it is safe to shower.