You have a tube called a peritoneal catheter that has been put into your abdominal cavity through the skin of your abdomen. You will be learning how to use the catheter to drain excess fluid from your abdominal cavity. Draining the fluid will help you to be more comfortable. You will have a dressing over the site on your abdomen to protect it and to prevent infection.

**Using the Catheter to Drain Fluid**
Your Home Care nurse will teach you how to use your catheter to drain the fluid from your abdomen.

**Gather supplies:**
- Drain bag
- Betadine minicap (iodine)
- Non-sterile gloves
- Scale

**Steps in draining the fluid:**
1. Clean your work area with soap and water.
2. Wash your hands using warm water and antibacterial soap. Rinse with warm water, dry thoroughly, and put on non-sterile gloves.
3. Being careful not to touch or have anything else touch the end of the catheter, remove the betadine minicap from the catheter and attach it to the drain bag.
4. Place the bag below the level of your stomach. Open the catheter to allow all of the fluid to drain. If you have problems draining the fluid, see the attached troubleshooting guide.
5. When you have drained the correct amount of fluid, close the catheter. Remove the drain bag from catheter and apply a new betadine minicap to the end of the catheter. Loop the catheter and tape it to the top of the dressing.
6. Discard the fluid into your toilet, being careful not to splash. Place the drain bag and used supplies in a plastic bag. Tie the bag closed, and throw it away.
7. Remove the gloves, wash your hands using soap and water, and dry your hands.

If you have other questions about your catheter, please ask your doctor or Home Care nurse.
## Troubleshooting Guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Possible Cause</th>
<th>What to do</th>
<th>Important Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fluid does not flow out of abdomen when catheter is open.</td>
<td>Catheter has kinks</td>
<td>Check catheter for kinks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fibrin or clots in tubing</td>
<td>Cough or bear down as for a bowel movement (valsalva maneuver)</td>
<td>Coughing may loosen fibrin in the catheter and push it out into the tubing and drain bag.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Constipation</td>
<td>You may use a suppository or enema</td>
<td>Clearing the bowels will remove the pressure on the catheter and improve drainage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contamination</td>
<td>End of catheter touched a dirty surface when you removed the end cap.</td>
<td>Throw away all supplies and start over with new supplies.</td>
<td>If your equipment touches a dirty surface you can get an infection in your abdomen.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Redness, swelling, drainage, tenderness around catheter site. Fever above 101°, chills | Infection | Call your doctor or Home Care nurse. | - Always wash your hands with anti-bacterial soap before caring for your catheter.  
- Keep sterile supplies sterile.  
Do not touch the end of the catheter when removing the betadine minicap. |
| Tear or hole in catheter | Leakage of fluid seen from catheter. | - Clamp catheter to prevent further fluid leaking.  
- Wrap catheter in betadine (iodine) soaked gauze and cover with dry sterile gauze dressing.  
- Call your doctor. | - Call doctor for catheter repair or replacement |