

Condom Catheter

● SKILL SNAPSHOT

Purpose

- Collects urine externally from a penis, reducing need for an indwelling urinary catheter when appropriate.

When to use

- Cooperative male patient with incontinence, adequate anatomy/skin integrity, and no urinary retention requiring drainage.

Supplies needed

- Correct-size external catheter; measuring guide; drainage bag/tubing; gloves; soap/water; clipper if needed; approved skin prep.

● PREP + PATIENT SETUP

- Verify indication; assess bladder emptying, cognition, mobility, skin, and latex/adhesive allergy.
- Explain procedure and provide privacy.
- Select correct size using manufacturer guide;

● VAULT TIP

- Fit is a circulation issue, not just a leak issue. Recheck the penis shortly after application.

● STEP-BY-STEP

1. Hand hygiene; identify patient; apply gloves.
2. Clean penis and perineum with soap and water; rinse and dry completely. Avoid lotion or oil.
3. Inspect skin for breakdown, edema, lesions, infection, and circulation. Clip excessive hair if necessary; do not shave.
4. If uncircumcised, retract foreskin only for cleansing, then return it to its natural position.
5. Measure and choose correct catheter size; too tight impairs circulation, too loose leaks.
6. Apply approved skin prep if indicated and allow it to dry.
7. Hold penis gently. Roll catheter smoothly from tip toward base, leaving the manufacturer-recommended space at the tip for urine flow.
8. Secure only with the integrated adhesive or approved device. Never use circumferential tape.
9. Connect drainage tubing without twisting. Anchor tubing to prevent traction.
10. Keep bag below bladder and off floor; maintain unobstructed flow and no dependent loops.
11. Check urine flow and assess penis for color, warmth, swelling, sensation, pain, and constriction soon after application and at regular intervals.
12. Remove and replace per manufacturer/facility schedule or sooner for leakage/soiling; cleanse and inspect skin each time.

● SAFETY REMINDERS

- Never apply circumferential tape.
- Remove immediately for pain, numbness, coolness, cyanosis, swelling, blistering, or skin injury.
- Return foreskin after care to prevent paraphimosis.
- Evaluate retention; an external catheter does not drain the bladder by insertion.

● COMMON MISTAKES

- Wrong size or applying to damp skin.
- Leaving hair caught in adhesive.
- Twisted catheter or dependent tubing loops.
- Bag above bladder or touching floor.

● DOCUMENTATION

- Indication, size/type, and application time.
- Penile/perineal skin and neurovascular status.
- Urine amount, color, clarity, odor; leakage.
- Drainage system position/function.
- Teaching, tolerance, changes/interventions.