

# Caring for your hemodialysis catheter

Your access site is your lifeline—ensure you feel your best by following these tips to clean and care for your hemodialysis catheter:

- Keep your catheter and access site clean and dry. Your care team can show you how to cover your access site while showering once your doctor approves.
- Check for any redness, drainage, tenderness or swelling before each treatment.
- Ask your care team before using powder, lotion or creams on your access site.
- Avoid touching the catheter where it goes into the skin.
- Use proper hand hygiene any time you touch your catheter or the catheter dressing.
- Wear clean, loose-fitting clothing around your catheter and be careful when using zippers.
- Keep the ends of your catheter capped and clamped for your safety.



## Take an active role in your care

A fistula is the best access type if you have adequate vein strength and size. **Talk to your doctor today** about your options and switching to a safer access.

## Changing your hemodialysis catheter dressing

Your care team will clean your access site and change your catheter dressing before the start of each treatment. If your dressing gets wet or soiled outside of the dialysis center, call your doctor or nurse. Your care team can walk you through how to change your hemodialysis catheter dressing from home.



### IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Call 911 immediately if your catheter or cuff comes out or if you are experiencing any bleeding. Put firm pressure on the exit site with a clean gauze or cloth and hold pressure for at least 15 minutes until the bleeding stops or help arrives.