

## Taking care of your hemodialysis catheter

- Be careful to avoid pulling on your catheter.
- Secure the catheter close to the skin. Make sure there are no kinks or bends in the catheter.
- Do not use sharp objects near the catheter (scissors, safety pins, etc.).
- Do not remove the dressing between dialysis treatments unless instructed to do so.
- Keep the catheter and dressing clean and dry. Check with the dialysis staff if the dressing becomes wet or very dirty.
- The dialysis staff will clean the catheter and apply a fresh dressing at each dialysis treatment. Whenever the catheter is opened or the dressing is removed, masks and clean gloves must be worn.
- Do not open the clamps or caps of the catheter.
- If the catheter is pulled or moved, make sure the cuff is not showing. If the cuff is showing, call the doctor or dialysis unit for instructions.
- If the catheter pulls out, apply firm pressure over the exit wound for at least 10 minutes and make sure it is not bleeding. Do not try to push the catheter back into your body. Call the doctor or dialysis clinic for instructions.
- Notify the dialysis clinic staff or your doctor immediately if there is any sign of infection such as fever, chills, redness, swelling, pain, drainage, or heat at the site of the catheter.

