

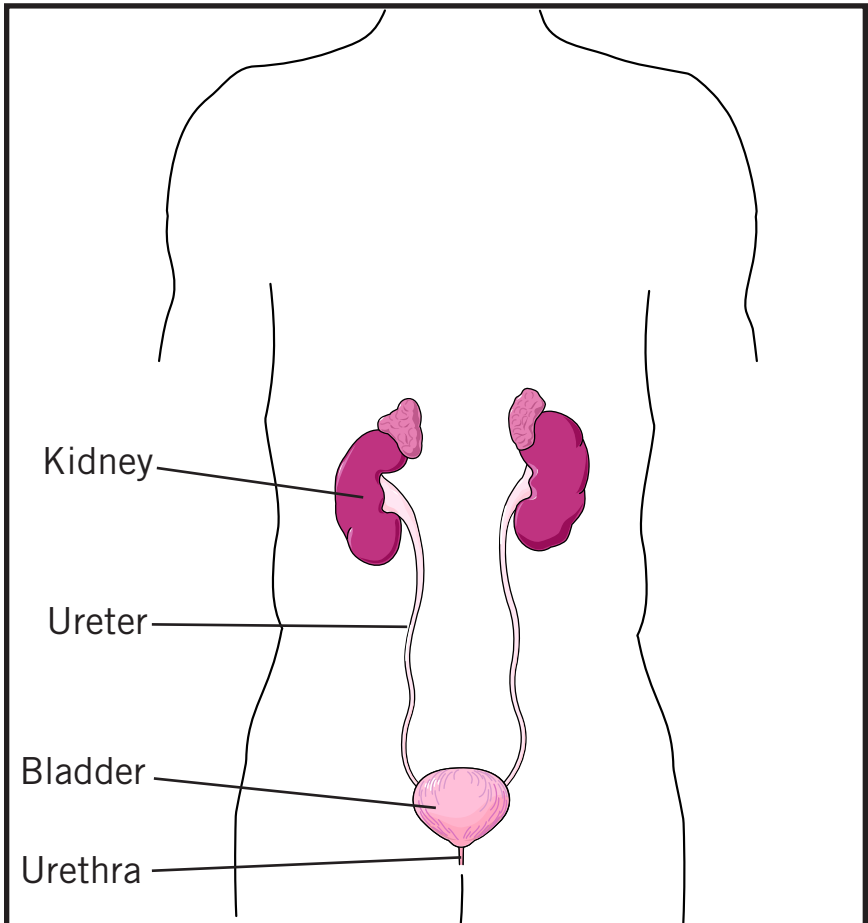
2014

Nephrostomy Tube

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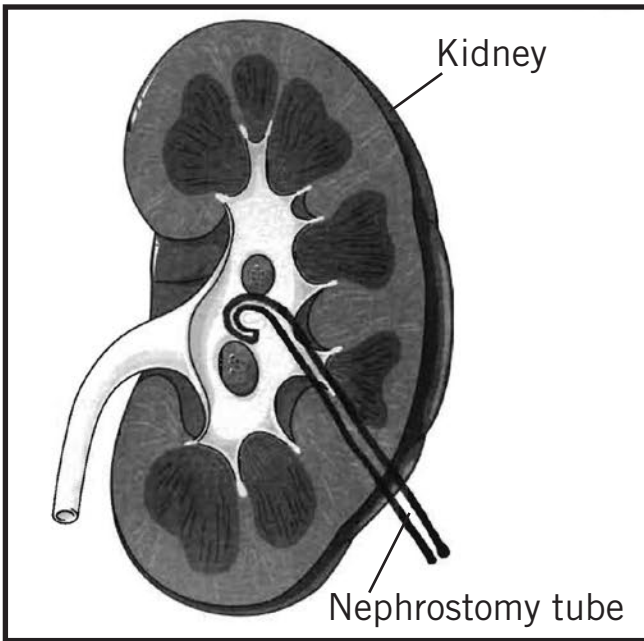
Why do I need a nephrostomy tube?

Urine (pee) is made in the kidneys. It travels through ureters (tubes) to the bladder. Urine leaves the bladder by another tube, the urethra. Because your kidney is not draining urine properly, your doctor has put in a nephrostomy tube (N/T).



What is a nephrostomy tube?

It is a small plastic tube which goes through your side into your kidney. This tube will then drain the urine out of your kidney. The tube is connected to a drainage bag (leg bag) that straps on to your leg. The urine will flow out of the tube and into the drainage bag. If you only have one nephrostomy tube and your other kidney is working and draining normally, you will also be able to pass urine normally.



Why do I need this tube?

- A nephrostomy tube is used when there is a blockage or something causing the urine to stay in the kidney. If urine builds up in the kidney, it can cause damage.
- The tube is also used as an access point. Using special instruments, your doctor can look inside the kidney and do a procedure such as removing or crushing a kidney stone.

When the tube is in place

- If you are in pain, you will get pain medication.
- There is a bandage around the area where the tube leaves your body. It will be changed 3 times a week or more often if it gets soiled (wet or dirty). The nurse will teach you or your family member how to do this. If needed, we can make plans for the home care nurse to visit.
- The tube will need to be emptied when it is full. While in hospital, your nurse will do this for you. If the tube is left in when you go home, your nurse will show you how to do this.

- When you no longer need the tube, your doctor will take it out at your bedside or in his/her clinic or office.
- Nephrostomy tubes can stay in for up to 3 months. If it needs to stay in longer than this, arrangements will be made for the tube to be changed and an appointment given to you.

If you need to see a doctor, please contact your family doctor or go to the nearest Emergency Department unless otherwise instructed by your Urologist.

If you have any questions, please ask.
We are here to help you.

Looking for more health information?

Contact your local public library for books, videos, magazines, and other resources.
For more information go to <http://library.novascotia.ca>

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Capital Health, Nova Scotia

www.cdha.nshealth.ca

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