

Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham



Part of University Hospitals Birmingham

NHS Foundation Trust



# Having your Peritoneal Dialysis Catheter placed in your abdomen

Delivering the **best** in care

**UHB is a no smoking Trust**

To see all of our current patient information leaflets please visit  
[www.uhb.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets.htm](http://www.uhb.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets.htm)

## Introduction to Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis (CAPD)

<b>C</b>	<b>Continuous</b>	Carries on all the time
<b>A</b>	<b>Ambulatory</b>	Once exchange is performed, you can move around and carry out your normal activities
<b>P</b>	<b>Peritoneal</b>	Uses the peritoneum as a filter
<b>D</b>	<b>Dialysis</b>	The process of removing excess water and waste from the blood

CAPD takes place **inside the body** using the natural lining of the abdomen called the **Peritoneum**. The Peritoneum acts as the dialysis membrane. In order to do your dialysis by CAPD you will need to have a small operation (which takes place under a local or general anaesthetic) to insert a PD Catheter into your abdomen. This sheet explains how it is put in.

The operation may be done under a local (LA) or general anaesthetic (GA). This will be booked by the nurses on the CAPD department. You will receive a letter stating when and where your procedure will take place and a date for a pre-admission assessment. During this assessment you will be advised which method is better for you. If you take Warfarin you will get advice about this.

Take your other tablets as usual.

It is important to have your bowels open before the operation. If you are having your PD catheter fitted under LA, you will be given a course of laxatives to clear the bowel prior to the procedure. You will be advised by the nurses and given written instructions. GA insertion usually does not involve any bowel prep beforehand. When you are on CAPD you will usually take regular laxatives. If you are constipated or have difficulties please speak to the nurse.

## If you are having the operation under local anaesthetic

You will be given a date and time to attend the Peritoneal Dialysis Unit in the old QE for your pre-assessment. You will be given body wash and nasal ointment and medicines to clear the bowel for 7 days prior to the procedure. You will have nasal, groin and nose swabs taken to check for MRSA and a set of bloods will be taken. Blood pressure, weight and temperature will be recorded. Please bring your medication list with you also. A short medical history will be taken and an examination of your abdomen. Written and verbal information will also be given, and you will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss any particular issues. Some patients will be recommended for a surgical (open) placement of peritoneal catheter under general anaesthesia. This will be arranged by the nurses and a date for your procedure will be sent to you by letter.

You will be admitted to Ambulatory Care at the new hospital on the morning of your procedure. If you are diabetic, you will be admitted the night before. The procedure will take place in Ambulatory Care theatre.

You should avoid eating solids or milk from midnight prior to your procedure. You can drink clear fluids until two hours prior to the surgery. You will be asked to empty your bladder before the procedure.

You will have a small tube (cannula) inserted into your hand, and you will receive sedation through this. Your abdomen will be exposed but the rest of your body will be covered. Local anaesthetic is injected below your belly button. This might sting a little. When the skin is numb a small cut is made to allow a needle and wire to be inserted. You might feel a tingling sensation inside.

A tube is slid along the wire into your abdomen. You might feel some pressure, but it should not hurt. The wire is

removed and the CAPD catheter passed through the tube into your abdomen.

Local anaesthetic is injected in the area where the catheter will come out. The catheter passes under the skin and out through this area. The small cut is closed with about five or six stitches and a dressing applied. The wound might ooze a little blood. Dialysis fluid will be flushed in and out of the catheter to make sure it is working.

After the operation you will have to rest for around two hours. You will be offered pain relief. Also you can eat and drink, and if there are no problems you can go home. An appointment will be given to you to return to the CAPD unit five days after to flush the catheter and change the dressings. A set of bloods will also be taken. The catheter is usually left in for about two weeks before it is used, but in the meantime you will have an appointment to come back to CAPD department on a weekly basis to ensure the catheter is still working and your blood results remain at safe levels.

## If you are having the operation under a general anaesthetic

You will receive a letter telling you where and when to attend your pre-admission assessment. You will be given body wash and nasal ointment to use for five days prior to the operation and mild laxatives to prepare the bowel. The pre-assessment nurse will take an MRSA screen, observations, and a short medical history. She will explain when you need to stop eating and drinking.

The operation is performed in an operating theatre while you are under a general anaesthetic (sleeping). You may feel drowsy afterwards. Most people go home the next day.

## Before you go home

Please make sure that:

- your wounds have been checked and that they are OK
- you have all the equipment and medication you need
- an appointment has been made for you to be seen again

Speak to the nursing staff if you have any queries about any of the above.

Your dressings **must** be left in place and kept dry. If they become loose, secure the edges with tape. If blood oozes through the dressing place a clean dressing on top and apply gentle pressure for ten minutes. **Telephone CAPD department if it continues to ooze.**

Avoid heavy lifting, straining or strenuous exercise for two weeks.

## Contact Details

If you have any questions or worries the nurses and doctors will be happy to help. You can contact us using the numbers shown below:

### **CAPD Department**

Monday-Friday 09:00-17:00

Tel: 0121 627 2515

### **Kidney Assessment Team (KAT)**

Monday-Friday 17:00-20:00

Saturday and Sunday 08:00-16:00

Tel: 07887985486

### **Renal Registrar via Hospital switchboard**

Tel: 0121 627 2000



The Trust provides free monthly health talks on a variety of medical conditions and treatments. For more information visit [www.uhb.nhs.uk](http://www.uhb.nhs.uk) or call 0121 627 7803

---

**Renal Unit**  
**Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham**  
Mindelsohn Way, Edgbaston,  
Birmingham, B15 2WB  
Telephone: 0121 627 2000

---