

Leg Bag

Purpose

A leg bag is a smaller drainage bag, which can be worn on your leg during the day for collecting urine.

Supplies

- Alcohol and cotton balls
- Soap and water
- Wash cloth and towel
- Leg strap

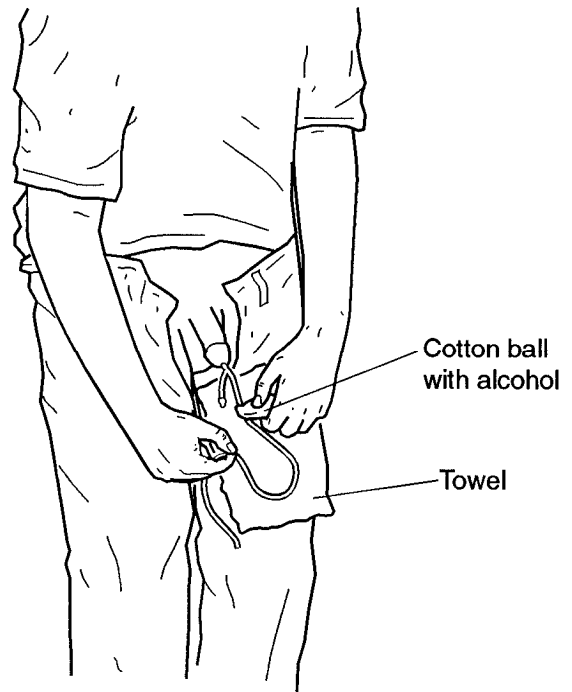
Changing the large bag to a leg bag

- Gather your supplies.
- Wash your hands with soap and water.
- Do your catheter care as instructed.
(Read the handout **Home Care for your Foley Catheter.**)
- Empty the large drainage bag.
- Wash your hands with soap and water.

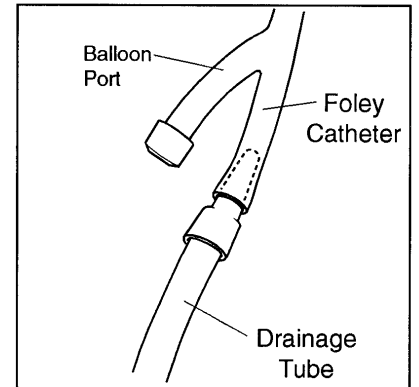
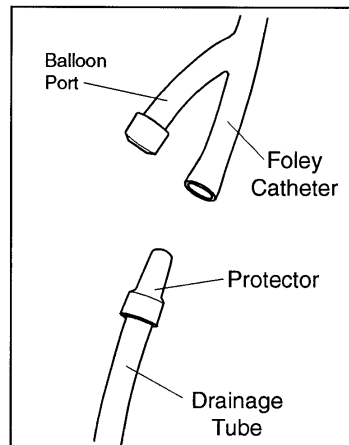
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Learn more about your health care.

- Use the cotton ball with alcohol to clean the connection between the Foley catheter tubing (soft rubber tubing) and the large drainage collection bag tubing.
- Place a towel under the connection to keep urine from dripping onto your leg.
- Pinch off the soft rubber tubing so urine will not leak out.



- Disconnect the Foley from the large drainage bag tubing with a twisting motion. **Be careful not to pull on your catheter.** Place the large drainage bag on the towel and connect the leg bag tubing.



- The tubing from the leg bag should be measured and cut to fit down to your calf with your leg slightly bent.
- Place the leg bag on your calf with the straps provided. Use a leg strap to secure the tubing to your thigh.
- Clean the large drainage bag with soap and water and hang it in the shower or tub to dry.
- Wash your hands with soap and water.

Precautions:

- Be sure to keep the drainage bag below the level of your bladder to prevent urine from flowing back into your bladder.
- Remember that the leg bag is smaller and will need to be emptied more frequently than the large drainage bag.
- Continue to drink 8-10 glasses of water a day.
- Call your health professional as previously instructed. (Refer to handout **Home Care for Your Foley Catheter.**)

If the leg bag is to be used longer than 2 weeks, clean it and the large drainage bag at least every other day with a solution of vinegar and water that is 1 part vinegar and 2 parts water or as you are instructed. Change to new bags every 2 weeks.

✦ **Talk to your doctor or others on your health care team if you have questions. You may request more written information from the Library for Health Information at (614) 293-3707 or email: health-info@osu.edu.**