

It only takes a minute to check your patient's catheter. Check before you connect.



Look

Look at the CATHETER to make sure:

- There are no cracks in the catheter tubing.
- The caps are on the ends of the catheter tubes.
- The catheter cuff is not coming out of the skin.

Look at the EXIT SITE to make sure there is no:

- Redness
- Drainage
- Bleeding
- Exposure of catheter cuff

Check the skin over tunnel for redness.



- If you think there is a problem with the catheter tubing.
- If the catheter hubs are exposed or dirty.
- If the catheter cuff is coming out of the skin.
- If the exit site is red, draining or bleeding.
- If the cuff is exposed.
- If a stitch is still in place:
Check to see if it can be removed
- The skin over the tunnel is red.

Listen

Listen to the patient and be sure to ask:

- If they think they might have a fever.
- If they have noticed anything different with their catheter since the last dialysis treatment.



- If the patient reports or has a fever.
- If the patient reports something that is different with their catheter.
- If the patient reports a problem with their catheter.

Feel

Press lightly on the area over the tunnel away from the exit site.

There should be no:

- Pain
- Drainage coming from the exit site

The area over the tunnel should not feel warmer than the area around it



If there is:

- Pain and/or drainage from the exit site when you press lightly on the area over the tunnel.
- If the area over the tunnel is warmer than the area around it.



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