

Indwelling Catheter Care in Home Care: A Comprehensive Guide for Families and Caregivers

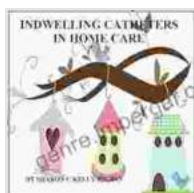


Indwelling catheters are medical devices used to drain urine from the bladder. They are commonly used in patients with urinary incontinence,

urinary retention, or other conditions that make it difficult to urinate.

Indwelling catheters can be inserted into the bladder through the urethra (transurethral catheter) or through the abdomen (suprapubic catheter).

While indwelling catheters can be a lifesaver for some patients, they also come with a number of risks and complications.



Indwelling Catheter in Home Care by Sharon Kelly

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Types of Indwelling Catheters

There are two main types of indwelling catheters:

* **Transurethral catheters** are inserted into the bladder through the urethra. They are typically made of silicone or latex and have a balloon at the tip that helps to keep the catheter in place. Transurethral catheters are usually inserted by a healthcare professional, but they can also be self-inserted by patients who have been properly trained. * **Suprapubic catheters** are inserted into the bladder through the abdomen. They are typically made of silicone or polyurethane and have a flange at the end that helps to keep the catheter in place. Suprapubic catheters are usually inserted by a surgeon or urologist.

Benefits of Indwelling Catheters

Indwelling catheters can provide a number of benefits for patients, including:

* Relief from urinary incontinence * Improved quality of life * Reduced risk of urinary tract infections * Improved sleep

Risks and Complications of Indwelling Catheters

Indwelling catheters can also come with a number of risks and complications, including:

* Infection * Bleeding * Leakage * Pain * Bladder stones * Urethral stricture

Caring for an Indwelling Catheter at Home

If you are caring for a loved one with an indwelling catheter, it is important to follow the instructions of your healthcare provider. General tips for caring for an indwelling catheter at home include:

* Keep the catheter clean and dry. * Change the catheter bag every 3-5 days. * Flush the catheter with sterile water every 8 hours. * Monitor the catheter for signs of infection, such as redness, swelling, or discharge. * Contact your healthcare provider if you have any concerns about the catheter.

Indwelling catheters can be a lifesaver for patients with urinary incontinence, urinary retention, or other conditions that make it difficult to urinate. However, it is important to be aware of the risks and complications associated with indwelling catheters and to follow the instructions of your healthcare provider for care.

Additional Resources

* [National Association for Continence](https://www.nafc.org/) * [Urology Care Foundation](https://www.urologyhealth.org/) * [American Urological Association](https://www.auanet.org/)



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