



Pediatric Surgical Associates, Ltd.

Patient and Family Education

Double Diapering

Some surgical patients will have catheters or stents in the urinary tract system for drainage during the immediate postoperative period. The catheter/stent may drain into a closed drainage system or may be placed into a double diaper system. The surgeon will determine, at the time of surgery, which system will be used. This is dependent on the age of the patient, type of surgery being done and type of catheter/stent being used. It is very patient specific. The purpose of double diapering is to help prevent tugging or pulling on the tube and surgical site which will decrease the risk for accidental dislodgement.

Double diapering involves two diapers. The inner diaper is for the child's bowel movements, the outer diaper is to absorb the urine. The inner diaper should be the size the child usually wears. The outer diaper should be one size larger.

Place the first diaper on the child then gently bring the catheter out of the leg or over the top of the inner diaper and place it into the outer diaper. Be careful to ensure that there are no kinks or twists in the catheter. It is not recommended that a hole be cut in the inner diaper to pass the catheter through. Diapers have absorbable beads in them which may spill out, get wet and can clog the catheter or stent.

The outer diaper should be changed every 3-4 hours or sooner if wet. The inner diaper should be changed when it is wet or soiled with stool or at least three times a day.

If you notice a dry outer diaper with no urine output, first make sure that the catheter is not kinked or twisted.

If there are no kinks or twists, you should call the surgeon or our clinic at **612-813-8000** for further instructions.