

### *Transcript*

When your kidneys can no longer do the job of cleaning your blood, you may need hemodialysis. A central venous catheter for hemodialysis can give your healthcare provider access to your blood vessels until a more permanent access like a fistula or graft is ready.

While you have a catheter, remember: your line will be flushed before and after each hemodialysis session, the dressing must be changed at some point during every hemodialysis treatment, every 7 days, or when wet or soiled. Watch for signs of infection, keep your catheter area clean and dry, and talk to your healthcare provider if you have any questions or concerns.

But, a catheter cannot be used for long-term care. Eventually it will need to be removed when your permanent fistula or graft access is ready to be used. A trained member of your healthcare team will remove your catheter safely. It is not painful and can be done as an out-patient procedure.

Once it is removed, your insertion site will be covered with a dressing to prevent infection as the site heals. Your healthcare provider will give you specific instructions on how to care for your insertion site after your catheter is removed. Follow these guidelines to allow your site to heal properly.