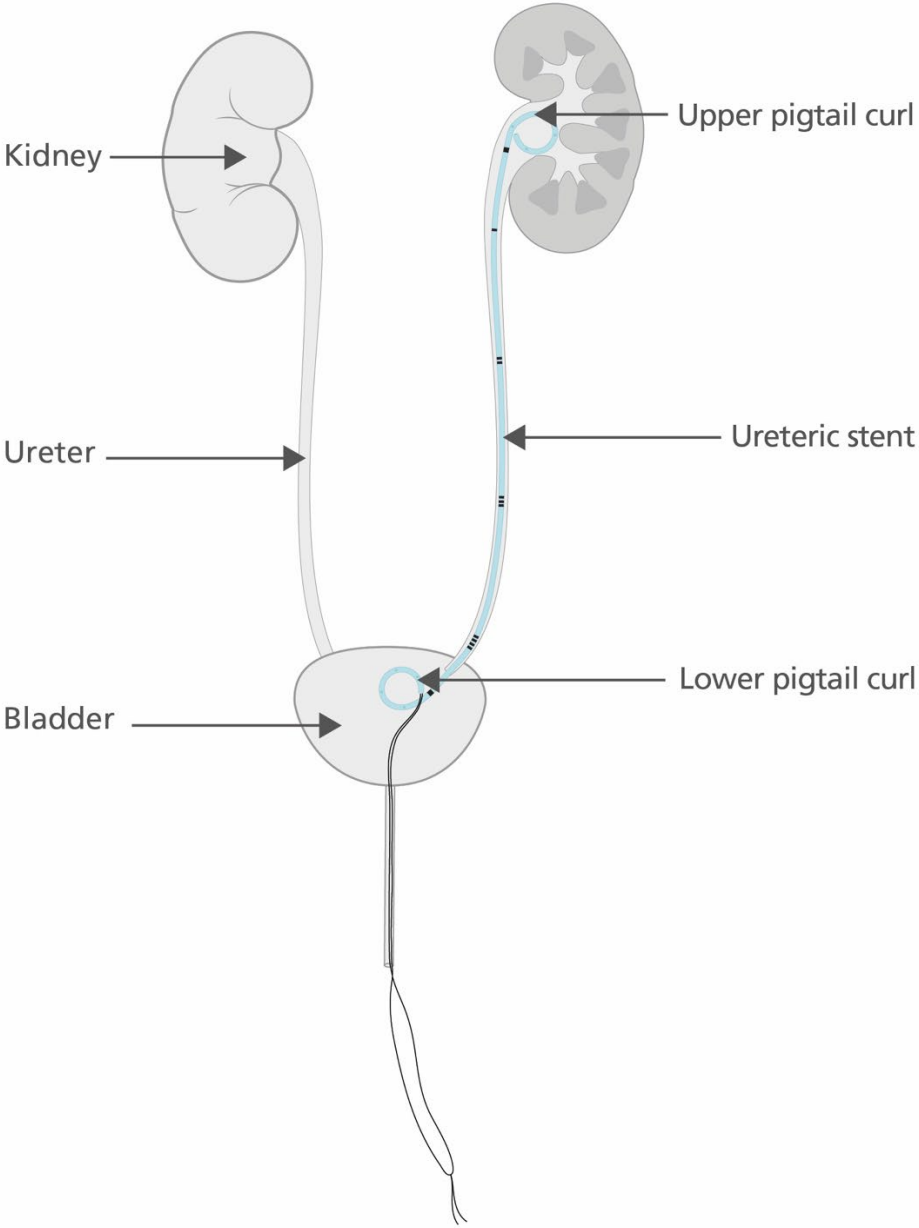
NHS
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Information for patients and carers

Removal of your ureteric stent

Date to remove your stent __/ __/ __ (_____day


Kidney
Upper pigtail curl
Ureter
Ureteric stent
Lower pigtail curl
Bladder

What we have done

You have just had a surgery, and we have put a stent in place. A stent is a thin tube which passes from your bladder up to your kidney through a natural connecting channel, called a ureter. The stent can be as long as 30 centimetres depending on the length of your ureter. The lower end of the stent has a string which we have strapped to your skin to secure it. In males we would apply a strapping or adhesive in a manner that does not restrict your involuntary erections. We refer to it as a stent-on-a-string.

What to expect with the stent-on-a-string

The string is tied in a knot, forming a loop. The string can snag on things. This can dislodge your stent or pull it out. it is important, therefore, to be careful so this does not happen. You can pass urine with it in place.

The string does not worsen symptoms you may experience related to the stent such as flank pain, blood in your urine, bladder spasms on trying to urinate or frequent urge to urinate.

We would ask you to keep the stent in for a prescribed number of days.

The day intended for removal will be clearly written on this leaflet. It is important to not remove it too early as it was placed to help your kidney drain. It is also important to ensure that you do remove it when advised, as stents which stay too long can become blocked, infected, become covered with stone, or lose their integrity and break into pieces when you eventually attempt to do so.

What to do on the day of removal

Prepare to remove it in the bathroom or over a toilet. Wash your hands with soap and water before you begin. Remove the securing tape or adhesive strip and free the string. Hold the two pieces of string (which have been left as a loop) as a unit, and pull on them, gently to avoid breakage, but continuously and firmly. The stent will begin to appear as a coloured tubing. It should have two curls at both ends, each of which looks like a pigtail when it has been completely removed. Check to see the stent is complete on removal. Throw the stent away in your rubbish bin wrapped up in toilet paper. Wash your hands with soap and water thereafter.

There will be some minimal discomfort in your flank and waterworks as the stent travels outwards. This may persist for some hours to up to a couple of weeks after the stent has been removed. Drink 2-3 litres of fluid daily. You may need some analgesia to help with the pain. Paracetamol may suffice.

Contact details

After removing your stent, please ring the Urology Department Benign Specialist Nurses on **01257 247729** and leave a voicemail to let us know it is out.

Please include your **full name, date of birth and the date you removed your stent**. *For example: "Hello, my name is John Smith, my date of birth is 01/01/1960, and I removed my stent on 10 September."*

If you require any further advice or information, please contact the team on the same number.

What to do when it is out?

You may return to your usual activities the next day.

When to seek medical advice or care?

- Early removal of your stent inadvertently or in error
- Flank pain not responding to analgesia
- Malaise or fever
- Passage of significant blood with clots
- If you do not feel confident to remove it yourself, please get in touch and we shall arrange for a hospital visit to remove it

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk
www.nhs.uk
www.accessable.co.uk
www.patient.co.uk
www.baus.org.uk/_userfiles/pages/files/Patients/Leaflets/Stent%20advice.pdf

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All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals is a smoke-free site. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on any of our premises, either inside or outside the buildings. Our staff will ask you about your smoking status when you come to hospital and will offer you support and advice about stopping smoking this will include Nicotine Replacement Therapy to help manage your symptoms of withdrawal and the opportunity to speak to a nurse or advisor from the specialist Tobacco and Alcohol Care Team.

If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact Smokefree Lancashire on Freephone **08081962638**

Please ask a member of staff if you would like help in understanding this information.
This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.

Our patient information group review our leaflets regularly, if you feel you would like to feedback on this information or join our reading group please contact on email address:
patientexperienceandinvolvem@LTHTR.nhs.uk

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