

After insertion of a stent in the ureter

There are a number of urological procedures where it can be necessary to insert a fine draining tube that sits in the ureter, draining urine from the kidney to the bladder. This stent may remain in place for a few days or for a few weeks, to aid the healing process. If you are discharged with a stent, arrangements will be made for its removal usually under a local anaesthetic (you are awake). This removal is very important and you must ensure you have a date or at least that arrangements are in place for you to attend the hospital in the near future before you are discharged.

As the stent overrides the usual 'valve' mechanism in the bladder preventing the back flow of urine up the ureter to the kidney, you are likely to notice some discomfort in the area of the kidney on the affected side during the act of passing urine. Towards the end of the process, you may also find that there is some discomfort in the pelvis as the bladder collapses onto the tail of stent protruding into the bladder.

For about 72 hours and often longer you may pass urine frequently, experience a mild burning sensation on passing urine, and/or see a little blood in the urine. Drinking plenty of fluids, preferably water, (approximately 2 litres /4 pints per 24 hours) and resting as much as possible may help to reduce these symptoms. It is particularly important to drink this amount if you have had stones removed with this procedure.

If symptoms persist and you notice that your urine is cloudy and/or has an offensive smell, please contact your GP so that a urinary infection may be ruled out. If you were discharged from hospital with antibiotics, it is important that you complete the course as instructed.