



Recognising infection



Anyone with a nephrostomy tube in place may be at risk of infection as the tube leads directly from the kidney to the outside world. There is a risk of inflammation of the kidney (pyelonephritis) as the nephrostomy is a foreign body and by rights should not be there.

Signs of infection could include:

- Loin pain.
- High temperature.
- Fever/shivers.
- Thick, smelly urine.
- Lower urine output.
- Redness and/or swelling around the nephrostomy site.
- Increased pain around the site.
- A discharge where the tube enters the skin.

Important note:

If you suspect you have an infection, contact your nurse or GP urgently and they can arrange for any necessary treatment, such as antibiotics.

Maintain strict hand hygiene at all times to minimise your infection risk.