Your physician has decided to put a catheter into your bladder through your lower abdominal/suprapubic area instead of through your urethra. A suprapubic catheter may be used in conditions where there are problems passing urine in the usual way. These problems may include infection, obstruction, or any injury caused by trauma or surgery in the bladder.

You may shower as usual but avoid tub baths or swimming in a pool or the ocean as this may cause an infection.

The opening created for the suprapubic catheter is called a stoma. Clean the skin around your stoma every day using warm water and soap without lotions or perfumes in it. Place clean gauze over area and adhere loosely with tape.

The catheter drains into a small bag attached to your upper leg. Your recovery room nurse will teach you how to empty the bag. You may see some blood in the drainage bag at first but this will gradually dissipate over the next day or two. It is important to drink plenty of clear fluids every day.

Your physician will recommend when your catheter will need to be changed. This will be done at the physician's office.

If you experience any problems such as nausea, vomiting, chills, yellow/green discharge on the gauze surrounding the stoma, fever greater than 100.5 F, redness and swelling around the stoma or an unusual amount of blood in the drainage bag please contact your physician.