



PERCUTANEOUS NEPHROLITHOTOMY (PCNL)  
POSTOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

**What to Expect**

- You will spend at least 2 days in the hospital following your surgery.
- You will have a nephrostomy tube to drain the urine from your kidney which will usually be removed before leaving the hospital.
- You may have a urinary catheter draining your bladder for the first 24 hours.
- You may have a ureteral stent to optimize drainage of urine from the kidney and speed the healing process. This is usually removed within 2-4 weeks after surgery in the doctor's office.

**Activity**

- You may shower at home, but no tub baths for the first 2 weeks.
- No driving for 2 weeks.
- No lifting greater than 10 lbs. for 2 weeks.
- Avoid prolonged sitting or lying in bed. Take daily moderate walks.

**Diet and Medications**

- Talk with your doctor before resuming your usual medications
- Drink plenty of fluids. Normal diet.

**Call Our Office if:**

- Fever greater than 101.5 F
- Increasing pain despite pain medication.
- Chills, vomiting.
- Heavy bleeding or clots in urine.
- Purulent drainage around insertion site of nephrostomy tube.
- Pain, burning or difficulty with urination.
- Persistent drainage from nephrostomy tube site after one week.