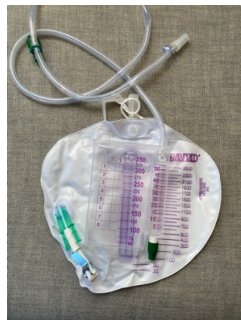


# Knitted Catheter Bag Cover II

By Jan Striemer

To some, the catheter bag is one of the most humiliating and obvious signs of illness. By design, the clear plastic bag easily indicates to caregivers the amount of urine in the bag. But it also telegraphs the contents to anyone visiting the patient. In the case of hospice, it's just one more indignity at the end of life.

Hopewell House in Portland, Oregon, is Portland's only residential care facility dedicated to care for those at the end of life: [hopewellhousepdx.org](http://hopewellhousepdx.org). Caregivers asked our team of volunteer knitters if we could create a knitted cover for the two types of catheter bags being used that attach to the bed. We came up with this simple design which will work for both types of catheter bags. The cover is open at the bottom and buttoned at the top so the bag can easily be checked or changed.



Two covers and the two different types of catheter bags.

It's a simple knit in the round with an open bottom and top – like a cowl -- but we pinched it together at the top and used buttons to keep it from slipping down to allow access. The buttons need to be placed on each side the plastic hanger and tube, leaving about a 4" opening. The care-givers will be able to either unbutton and slip the cover down to change it or lift it up to check it. The tube coming out of the top is tethered to the patient.

We're using 100% acrylic, worsted weight yarn so it can be machine washed and dried. The covers will be reused. We suggest subtle colors and design elements.

**Size:**

Finished size 11" w x 12" h

**Supplies:**

1 skein of 100% acrylic #4 worsted weight yarn, about 200 - 250 yards. I used Lion Brand's Schitt's Creek acrylic yarn with 372 yards, and 200 g. (I may be able to make two covers as I only used 90 g).

US size 8 circular needles with a 12" cable, or a long cable for magic loop.

Tapestry needle

Two medium sized buttons (if yarn is a solid color, a contrasting button color is fun).

Stitch markers

**Gauge:**

In stockinette: 18 sts & 26 rows in 4"

**Abbreviations**

BO bind off

K knit

K2TOG knit 2 together

PM place marker

SM slip marker

st stitch

sts stitches

YO yarn over

1x1 rib knit 1, purl 1 - around

**Directions**

- CO 90 sts with a long tail cast on. Join in the round, being careful not to twist stitches. Place marker at beginning of round.
- Next round, \*K1, P1; repeat from \* to marker. Continue 1x1 ribbing until it measures 1" (6 rows).
- K until cover measures 11" from the cast on edge.
- Next round, create button holes: K12, YO, K2TOG, K18, YO, K2TOG, K11, PM. These 45 sts will be the front of the cover.
- K to end.
- K two more rounds, slipping markers as you go.
- Next round, K1, P1 around. Continue 1x1 ribbing for 2 more rows.
- BO in pattern. Bury the ends.
- Flatten out the cover so the button holes are spaced evenly in the front. Sew buttons onto the inside of the back, matching up to the button holes.