

Urinary System Vocabulary

Kidneys - **bean** shaped organs on either side of the spinal column, **behind** the upper part of the abdominal cavity, protected by the **ribs** and a heavy layer of **fat**

Nephrons - microscopic **filtering** units within the kidneys

Ureters - **2** muscular tubes, approximately **10-12 inches** long that transport **urine** from the kidneys to the **bladder**

Bladder - a **hollow** muscular sac that stores urine. The urge to **void** occurs when the bladder contains approximately 250 cc (**1 Cup**) but it can hold much more.

Urethra - the tube that transports urine to the **outside**.

Females - approximately 3,75 cm (**1 ½ inches**)

Males - approximately 20 cm (**8 inches**), passing through the **prostate** and the penis - transports both urine and **semen**

NOTE - urine is approximately **95%** water. The kidneys produce approximately 1500 - 200 cc/day (**1 ½ - 2 quarts**) from the approximately **150 quarts** of liquid filtered daily.

Related Terms:

Polyuria - **excessive urination**

Oliguria - **below normal amounts of urination**

Anuria - **absence of urination**

Hematuria - **blood in the urine**

Pyuria - **pus in the urine**

Nocturia - **urination at night**

Dysuria - **painful urination**

Dysuria - painful urination

Retention - inability to empty the bladder

Incontinence - involuntary urination

Cystitis - inflammation of the bladder

Nephritis - inflammation of the kidneys

Renal Calculus - kidney stone

Uremia - ineffective kidneys (urinary waste products are present in the blood stream)

Urethritis - inflammation of the urethra

Renal failure - kidney failure (may require dialysis or transplant)

Causes

hemorrhage
shock
injury
poisoning
nephritis
dehydration
hypertension
diabetes

Symptoms

oliguria/anuria
headache
ammonia odor to breath
cardiac arrhythmia
uremia
nausea/vomiting/diarrhea
decreased mental ability
convulsions
coma
death