

# medical packaging INNOVATION

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## Portable & Discreet Packaging a Must for the Patient Who Self-Catheterizes



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Some medical devices, by their very nature, need to be carried around by patients as they lead active, independent lives. Examples include catheters designed for intermittent self-catheterization -- a procedure in which the patient inserts a catheter when the bladder needs emptying.

Given the portable use of these catheters, their design should incorporate compact packaging that is discreet.

Traditional catheters typically come in large, long packaging. Such packaging is inconvenient, since it does not fit into the patient's pocket, or it requires the patient to carry a large bag for storage when out and about -- not particularly helpful for an active, independent user. Also, traditional catheter packaging is transparent and therefore indiscreet. Imagine the patient's embarrassment when a catheter pops out of an overfilled, oversized bag.

Fortunately, there are products that have been designed with portability in mind. For example, SpeediCath® Compact comes in compact packaging that is discreet. [Patients who have used it](#) say they like its small size. It looks like a pen, it's easy to store, and the packaging provides protection for the catheter both before and after use (when leaks might otherwise occur).

A second example, [CompactCath](#) (currently undergoing FDA review), is packaged in a nonlinear form. If this product is approved, it could be very convenient, in terms of size and shape, for aiding portable use.

A third example of portable packaging design is provided by [LoFric Primo](#). This catheter is

covered by a hydrophilic polymer, which requires activation by water at the time of use. The water is kept separate in the packaging, which has the advantage of being small and foldable.

Once the catheter has been opened and is ready for use, a clever feature of the packaging is that part of it remains on the catheter to be used as a handling strip for achieving hygienic insertion.

Fewer hassles for patients and better compliance will be achieved by using catheter packaging that is discreet and compact. These design advantages are highly regarded by patients who need to perform intermittent self-catheterization.



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