what is the maximum recorded mmhg of a newly cathed patient

There is **no well-established single "maximum recorded mmHg" for a newly catheterized patient.** Bladder pressure at catheter insertion is highly variable and is not routinely measured; most catheterizations record the drained volume, not pressure.

Best available reference points

- In healthy male volunteers, the average **maximum isovolumetric bladder pressure**—pressure generated when flow is briefly interrupted during voiding—was about **12.2 kPa**, or roughly **92 mmHg**.[1]
- In chronic urinary retention, a bladder end-filling pressure above **25 cmH2O** (about **18 mmHg**) is classified as "high pressure," and intravesical pressure can remain elevated through voiding.[2]
- For intra-abdominal pressure measured through a bladder catheter, normal is roughly **0–7 mmHg**, while research setups have validated measurements around **30 mmHg** during controlled pneumoperitoneum.[3] [4]

For your scenario

A bladder that releases **700 mL in 5–10 seconds** through a 20 Fr 3-way catheter would be consistent with a transient average pressure on the order of **50–90+ mmHg**, and the instantaneous peak could plausibly be higher. That is compatible with an overdistended, strongly contracting bladder—but it would not represent a normal "newly cathed" baseline.

Why no universal record exists

Pressure depends on bladder volume, detrusor contraction, outlet obstruction, abdominal pressure, pain/straining, catheter size, and whether the catheter is open or momentarily clamped. Catheterization guidelines focus on residual volume and controlled decompression rather than documenting a maximum pressure; more than 400 mL drained in the first 15 minutes is generally treated as evidence of urinary retention.[5] [6]

So the practical answer is: **a transient peak around 90–100+ mmHg is physiologically plausible in severe acute retention, but there is no recognized official maximum recorded value.**



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2. https://mail.mmsjournals.org/index.php/mmj/article/download/538/1683

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4. https://cris.tau.ac.il/en/publications/assessment-of-intra-abdominal-pressure-with-a-novel-continuous-bl/
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