

DRAIN CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Dear Patient:

Today, you are being discharged with a “drainage tube.” The tube has small holes in it that collect the fluid and then drain into a storage reservoir, called a bulb. **DO NOT be alarmed by** the looks of, or the thought of caring for this...you can do this. All that you will need to do is empty the “bulb” and record the amount of drainage...document the date, time and amount of drainage for reference as the amount per 24 hours will indicate when it is time for the drain to be removed.

TO BEGIN:

1. Wash your hands with soap and water
2. Strip the drain by milking all the fluid out of the drain tubing. This helps keep the drain tubing open so the drain can function properly. To do this:
 - a. Pinch the drain tubing with one hand near where it comes out of the skin
 - b. With the other hand, pinch the tubing and slide the pinched fingers down the tubing toward the bulb.
 - c. Sequentially reposition each hand as you move down the tubing and towards the bulb (every 12” or so).
3. Remove the attached “plastic” stopper.

Measure how much fluid you collected by looking at the measurement lines directly on the bulb. Record this on the attached “Drainage Log” - do this twice a day or more often, if necessary. We will need to determine the total drainage amount per day. **Bring the “Drainage Log” with you to your next office visit.**

5. Empty the fluid from the drain bulb into the sink or toilet.
6. Squeeze the bulb container to expel all air and replace the “stopper.” The flattened bulb supplies gentle suction to the wound.
7. Wash your hands
8. A 4x4 dressing may be placed around the tube, tape securely in place. A safety pin may be placed thru the plastic loop on the bulb and then pinned to your clothing.
9. You may shower with this bulb in place. Use caution when drying yourself.

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DRAIN CARE INSTRUCTIONS – continued...

When will the drain be removed?

Your drain(s) will be removed when certain criteria is met. Your surgeon will make the determination when the output is appropriate, so the record keeping of the volume and color are very important.

What if I have concerns about my drain?

Call the office with any concerns you may have. Be certain to call if:

- The fluid suddenly increases or decreases in volume
- The drain stops holding suction (the bulb does not stay flat after the plug is replaced)
- There is a clot in the tubing that you can not “milk” into the bulb
- The fluid is not bloody, clear red, clear pink, clear yellow/straw colored
- The fluid has a foul odor

If a problem or question should arise once you are at home, please call **586-228-0550**. One of our physicians is on call 24 hours a day. We will get back to you as soon as possible. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.



