

## What to Report to the your Health Care Provider

- Unable to flush the drain tubing
- Redness or drainage around the drain
- An elevated temp greater than 38.5 °C
- An unexpected change in type or amount of drainage in the bag
- Bleeding and/or blood clots
- The drainage tube accidentally comes out

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

# Drain Irrigation at Home

## Discharge Information

- Post-Operative Drains
- Percutaneous Drains



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with patients  
and families

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person to whom it was given by the health care team.

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A percutaneous drain is a tube that is inserted through the skin during surgery or after a procedure to remove blood and fluids that may collect there.

Drains are placed under the skin during surgery or after a procedure to remove blood and other fluids that may collect there. The drainage is collected into a bag/container. Every person is different, and you may have more or less drainage than someone else. Also, the amount of drainage depends on the type of surgery or procedure you have had.

Your Physician or Nurse Practitioner (NP) has ordered your drain to be irrigated to keep the drain from plugging. Irrigation is done by flushing the drain tube with a solution. The order includes the amount and type of irrigation solution required, as well as, how often the irrigation is to be done. This pamphlet's instructions will guide you in irrigating your drain at home. **Any questions, please contact your Health Care Provider (Physician/NP and/or Nurse).**

## Equipment and Supplies

- Clean gloves
- A pre-filled 10 mL syringe of Normal Saline (NS) or the ordered alternate solution and a 10 mL luer-lock syringe
- Alcohol wipe
- Note that the stopcock has a side with needleless connector added to it, this is the Irrigation/Flush Port

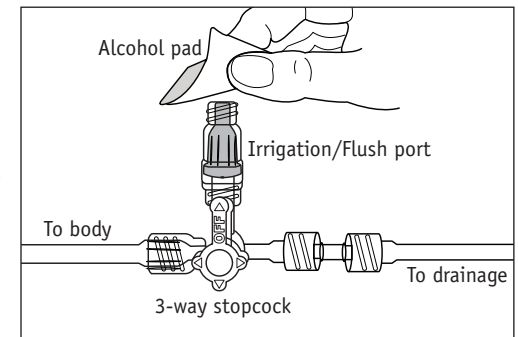
## Instructions for irrigating the drain:

1. Collect supplies.
2. Wash and dry your hands.
3. Remove the pre-filled syringe from its package or prepare the 10 mL syringe with alternate solution as ordered by your Physician/NP.

4. Pre-filled Normal Saline syringe plungers are difficult to push due to the suction. You will need to break this suction before attaching the syringe to the Irrigation/Flush port. To do this, back the syringe plunger back a short distance and then push the plunger forward up to the 10ml mark on the syringe.

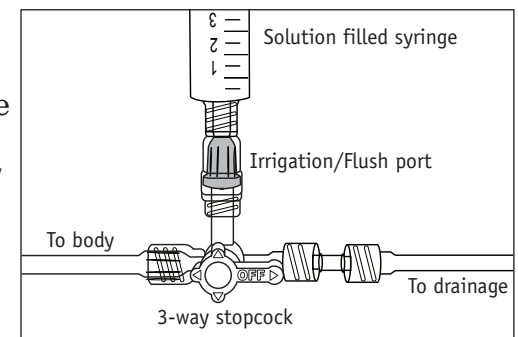
5. Put on clean gloves.

6. Vigorously cleanse the Irrigation/Flush port with an alcohol wipe for 15 seconds, allow to dry completely (for at least 30 seconds)



7. Push/turn the solution-filled 10mL syringe into the Irrigation/Flush port.

8. Turn the stopcock "OFF" arm to point towards the drainage device/bag. This opens the Irrigation/Flush port.



9. Use gentle but firm pressure to slowly push in the ordered volume of solution:

- **Do not pull back on the syringe**
- **If there is resistance or pain during the irrigation; STOP, and notify your Health Care Provider**

10. Turn the stopcock 'OFF' arm to point towards the Irrigation/Flush port. Twist off the syringe.
11. Dispose of used equipment (gloves, syringe) in the garbage.
12. Wash and dry your hands.