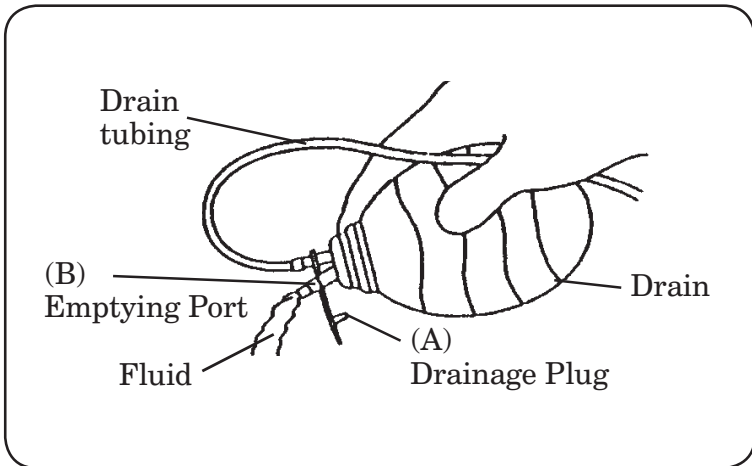


Jackson-Pratt®

(Registered Trade Mark of the Allegiance Health Care Corporation)

Wound Drainage System

Patient Instruction Guide



You have had surgery which requires you to go home with a drain (Jackson-Pratt® wound drain).

General care of the drain site may include changing the dressing daily and cleaning the skin around the drain. The wound drainage system will require you, or someone caring for you, to empty and record the amount.

The system operates by using suction - as the drain expands, the suction created pulls out fluid.

It is important to measure and record the drainage. Usually the drain tubing is removed by the doctor or Home Care Nurse when the drainage becomes less than a certain amount, as directed by the doctor. A chart is provided in this pamphlet to record the amount of drainage. Record the date, time and amount of fluid emptied. Empty the drain as often as directed by your nurse and/or doctor, usually twice a day.

Important points about your drainage system

- The drain must be kept below the surgery site to allow proper drainage.
- Attach the drain to your clothing (using the plastic strap) with a safety pin.
- Empty the drain whenever the fluid collected reaches the 100cc mark or before.
- Use a cup to measure the drainage
- Flush the drainage down the toilet and clean the measuring cup with soap and water so it is ready for the next time.
- Record the amount of drainage on the chart on page 5 of this booklet.
- You may choose to empty the drain in the bathroom for convenience.
- Caution: Never disconnect the tubing from the drain as this could increase the risk of infection!

Steps to empty and reactivate (compress) your drain

*Please note that the following information is the practice at VCH and has not been adapted from the Jackson Pratt (registered Trade Mark of the Allegiance Health Care Corporation) Wound Drainage Brochure.

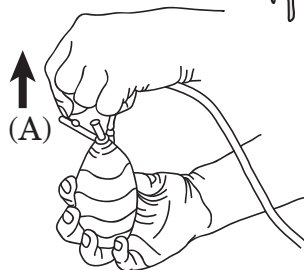
Step 1:

- Wash your hands with soap and water before emptying the drainage system



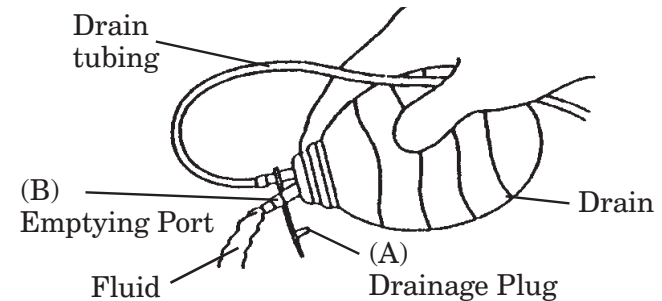
Step 2:

- Hold the chamber up with the tubes on top.
- Pull the drainage plug (A) out.



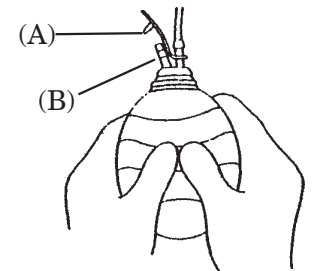
Step 3: Empty the Drain

- Hold the drain over a measuring cup and squeeze the fluid from the emptying port (B).
- When the drain is empty, reactivate the suction.



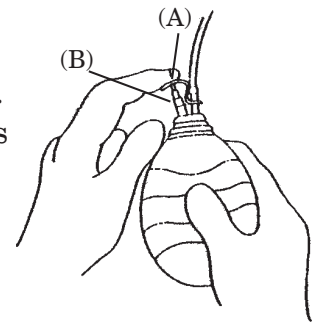
Step 4: Reactivate the Suction

- Squeeze to flatten the drain as completely as possible.



Step 5: Insert the Drainage Plug

- Keeping the drain flattened, insert the drainage plug (A) into the emptying port (B) as far as possible.
- The drain should expand gradually as it fills with fluid.
- If the drain does not expand gradually and collect fluid, contact your doctor or homecare nurse.



Step 6:

- Wash your hands with soap and water when you are done.



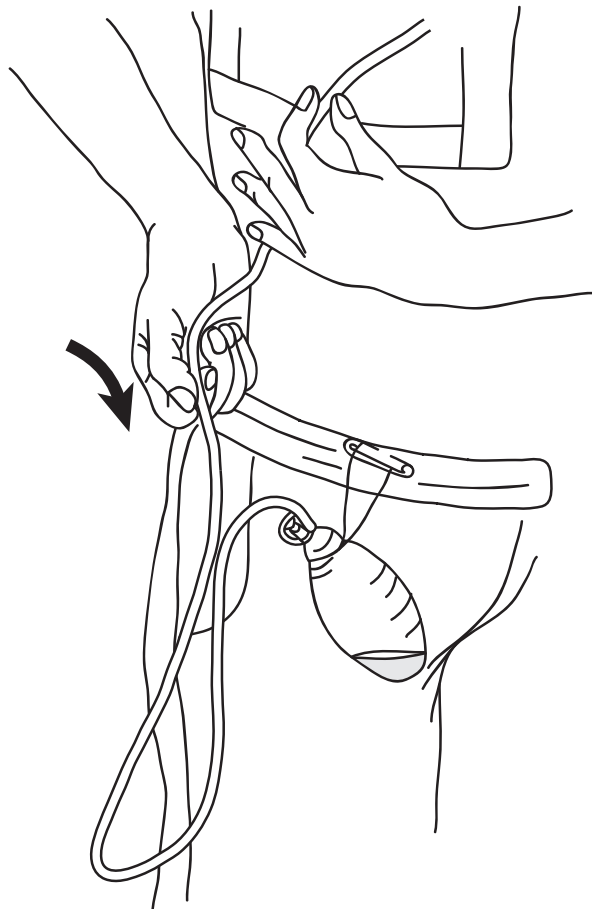
Stripping the tubing

(only if directed by your doctor or nurse)

Stripping the tubing of your drain twice a day may prevent the drain blocking.

Note: Using Vaseline or lotion on your hand may help to move it along the tubing.

1. While holding the tubing with one hand, squeeze the tubing with the other hand.
2. Move this hand down the tubing while keeping the tubing squeezed (see figure below).
3. Release your hand.



Drains should be emptied every 12 hours. Select times to suit your schedule, for example 9:00 am and 9:00 pm.

Date	Drain Site		Drain Site	
	Time	Amount	Time	Amount
_____	_____ am	_____	_____ am	_____
	_____ pm	_____	_____ pm	_____
	Total	_____	Total	_____
_____	_____ am	_____	_____ am	_____
	_____ pm	_____	_____ pm	_____
	Total	_____	Total	_____
_____	_____ am	_____	_____ am	_____
	_____ pm	_____	_____ pm	_____
	Total	_____	Total	_____
_____	_____ am	_____	_____ am	_____
	_____ pm	_____	_____ pm	_____
	Total	_____	Total	_____
_____	_____ am	_____	_____ am	_____
	_____ pm	_____	_____ pm	_____
	Total	_____	Total	_____
_____	_____ am	_____	_____ am	_____
	_____ pm	_____	_____ pm	_____
	Total	_____	Total	_____

Notify your Homecare Nurse or Doctor for the following:

- The drain cannot be flattened or does not remain compressed, or falls apart and is rejoined (clean ends with alcohol before attempting to reconnect tubing).
- The drain tubing falls out.
- The fluid in the drain becomes foul smelling.
- You have a fever.
- There is any increased redness, swelling or abnormal drainage from the drain or insertion site.
- There is an air leak, fluid leak or any other malfunction in the system.
- The drain is not collecting any fluid.

Drains should be emptied every 12 hours.

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The information in this document is intended solely for the person to whom it was given by the health care team.
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