



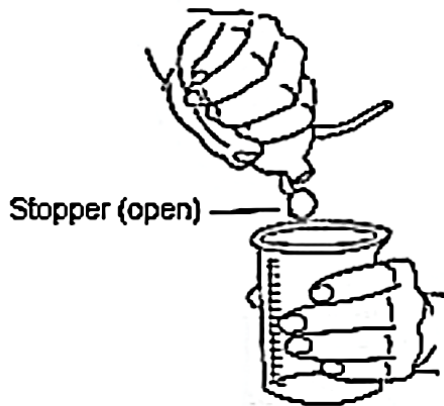
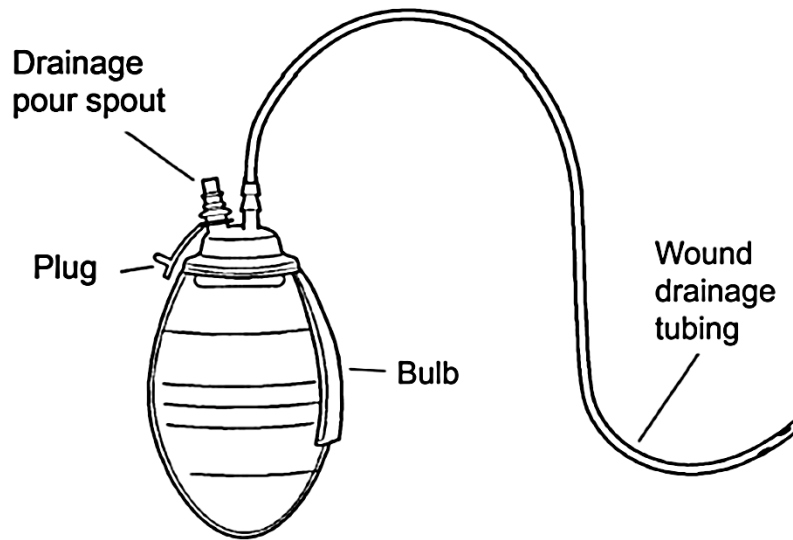
Drain Care Instructions

If you have a surgical drain, careful maintenance and measurement recording are required. Follow these instructions **exactly** and **record** the drainage volume in mL or CCs on the Drain Log. **Bring log to each postop visit.**

1. Always wash hands or use a gel sanitizer before caring for drain.
2. Hold the tubing securely at the skin site with one hand. With the other hand, pinch the tubing between your thumb and index finger and apply firm pressure as you strip the tubing towards the bulb.
3. Measure the drain output using a clear measuring cup two times per day, or at any time the drainage bulb is more than 1/3 full, and record on your drain log. You may switch to measuring only one time per day once the drainage is low. Dispose of drainage in the toilet.
4. After emptying, squeeze bulb tight to create suction and replace cap. Check that the bulb is always depressed (flat).
5. If the tubing and bulb come apart, wipe the ends with alcohol and reconnect. Squeeze the bulb again and replace cap.
6. If you have a drain and a tissue expander or implant, **do not** shower or get site wet until drain is out for 48 hours.
7. You may have an antibiotic dressing at the site that will be changed weekly at each post-op visit. Keep this dressing intact. If the dressing becomes loose, apply antibiotic and a bandaid (changing twice a day) and call the office during regular business hours. If not covered, wash the drain site daily with soap and water. **Do not clean drain site with peroxide or alcohol.** Apply a dab of bacitracin to drain site twice per day and cover with a bandaid or gauze and tape.
8. Always secure the drain bulbs to clothing using safety pins or the Velcro belt (if provided by the hospital) so that there is no tension on the drain at the incision site. You may also utilize a shirt or waist pouch with pockets for the bulbs.
9. **Do not** cut the drain tubing.
10. Occasionally drains may get pulled out. **Do not panic. Do not try to reinsert the drain.** Cover the drain site with a 4x4 gauze pad and antibiotic ointment, apply pressure, and call the office during business hours.
11. Call the office during immediately if there is an increase in bright red bloody drainage. If you notice cloudy drainage, a significant increase in pain at the site, loss of suction (bulb won't stay depressed), leaking around insertion site, or clogged bulb, call during regular business hours.



Drain Care



Turn the drain collection container upside down over the measuring cup. Gently squeeze the bulb to empty it.



Squeeze the bulb flat with your hand before you replace the plug.



Drainage Output Log

Please bring this log with you to all post-surgical appointments

Patient Name _____

1. Strip, empty into measuring cup, record output in Milliliters (ml/cc), and recharge drain suction - TWICE DAILY.
2. Record the daily output for each drain separately; one morning measurement and one evening measurement.

Date:	Time:	Site: Drainage Amount (ml)	Site: Drainage Amount (ml)	Site: Drainage Amount (ml)	Site: Drainage Amount (ml)
	am				
	pm				
	am				
	pm				
	am				
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