



## Information Regarding Care of JP Drains

### **Importance of JP Drains:**

- The JP (Jackson-Pratt) Drain is a special tube that helps prevent body fluid from collecting near the site of your surgery.
- The squeeze bulb at the end of the drain tube creates a gentle suction that helps drain the fluid. Therefore, if the bulb is not squeezed tightly, the fluid will not drain.
- Fluid which is not drained may be susceptible to infection. Maintaining suction is imperative to prevent this fluid to become stagnant and infected.
- At first, the fluid will be bloody in color. However, as your wound heals, the fluid changes to light pink, light yellow, or clear and the amount will lessen over time.

### **Caring for JP Drains:**

1. You will want to pin the JP drain either to your clothing by using a safety pin through the plastic loop on the top of the bulb, or you can use a lanyard that goes around your neck. This is done to prevent the drain from being pulled and causing discomfort.
2. Depending on how much fluid drains from your surgical site, you will need to empty the bulb every 6 to 12 hours.
3. Steps on Emptying and Recording your output are as follows:
  - a. Wash hand thoroughly.
  - b. Remove plug from bulb
  - c. Pour fluid from inside the bulb into a measuring cup
  - d. Squeeze the bulb flat. While the bulb is flat, put the plug back into the bulb. The bulb should remain flat after it is plugged in so that the vacuum suction can restart.
  - e. Measure the amount of fluid you collected and record it on your flow sheet, including the date and time.
  - f. You may then discard the fluid in the toilet/sink and rewash hands.
4. In order to prevent blockages or clots in the drain, **we recommend stripping your drains at least 2-3 times/day.** It will be helpful to do it just before you empty your drain.
5. Steps on "stripping" the drains are as follows:
  - a. Using one hand, firmly hold the tubing near the insertion site (close to your skin). This will prevent the drain from being pulled out while you are stripping it.
  - b. Using your index finger and thumb, squeeze the tubing. You should squeeze firmly enough that the tubing becomes flat.
  - c. As you are squeezing, slide your index finger and thumb down the tube until you reach the bulb.
  - d. Repeat process. This will help to prevent the tubing from being clotted off.

6. Monitor the skin around the drain for any signs and symptoms of infection. These include: redness, tenderness, warmth, foul-smelling or pus-like discharge. If you notice any of these, please notify our office.
7. You may want to keep gauze around the drainage tube, in the event there is some small drainage from around the tube, which is normal.

**Removal of JP Drains:**

1. A JP Drain is ready for removal when the total amount of fluid is less than 25-30cc for a 24 hour period, for 2 consecutive days.
2. **When your drain is ready for removal, you will need to call our office at 864-214-5232 to set up an appointment for removal**
  - **Please remember to bring your record sheet with you to your visit**
3. After your drain is removed, the nurse will apply a small amount of Neosporin to the insertion site and cover with a band aid. You will want to continue doing this for the next few days until the area is healed.
4. It is common for the JP drain site to drain a small amount of fluid from that area for the next few days while healing. This is normal.
5. Once drain is removed, continue to monitor the area for the next several days. If you notice increased swelling, pressure, warmth, fevers, and/or chills, you will want to notify our office immediately.