



## **Caring for your Jackson Pratt (JP) Drain**

The Jackson Pratt drain is a special tube put in place near the site of surgery to prevent body fluid from collecting. It pulls the fluid into a bulb by suction. You can then empty and measure the fluid to keep track of the amount of output for 24 hours. Do this two to three times every day, at the same times, as your provider directs.

### **How to care for the drain site**

You will be told before discharge whether you need to change the dressing at your drain site. If so, you will remove the dressing and clean around it with a cotton swab and warm soapy water one time every day.

If you are told to leave the dressing in place, please do so. If the dressing comes loose, you should replace it with a split 4x4-inch piece of gauze and tape.

### **How to empty your drain**

- Wash your hands well with soap and water and dry them before and after handling the drain.
- Empty the drain two to three times every day, at the same times of day, as your provider directs. Measure and record the amount of fluid on the form on Page 3.
- Pull the plug from the drain. Pour the fluid into a liquid measuring cup. Squeeze the bulb flat. While the bulb is flat, replace the plug into the hole. The bulb should remain flat after the plug is replaced. Record the drainage amount with date and time on the form on Page 3 (for two times each day) or Page 4 (for 3 times each day).
- Flush the fluid down the toilet after measuring.

## **What to do at home**

- Watch for clots in the drainage tube. Clots can slow or prevent draining.
- Do not sleep on the same side as the tube.
- Secure the tube and bulb inside your clothing with a safety pin (do not puncture the tube or bulb) to help prevent pulling.

## **When to call your doctor**

Call your doctor if any of the following occurs:

- new or increasing pain around the tube
- warmth, redness or swelling around the tube site
- foul-smelling drainage
- vomiting
- fever over 100.4 degrees F
- drainage around the tube site
- stitches come loose
- tube breaks or comes out
- change in drainage to more bloody
- sudden increase in amount of drainage (greater than 30 ml)
- sudden decrease in amount of drainage (greater than 30 ml)

Please use the following charts to record your cleanings.

**Chart for Cleaning 2 Times Every Day**

<b>Day/time</b>	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Evening/night</b>	<b>Amount of fluid</b>
<b>Day 1</b>			
<b>Day 2</b>			
<b>Day 3</b>			
<b>Day 4</b>			
<b>Day 5</b>			
<b>Day 6</b>			
<b>Day 7</b>			
<b>Day 8</b>			
<b>Day 9</b>			
<b>Day 10</b>			
<b>Day 11</b>			
<b>Day 12</b>			
<b>Day 13</b>			
<b>Day 14</b>			

**Chart for Cleaning 3 Times Every Day**  
**(2 Pages)**

Day/Time	Morning	Afternoon	Evening/Night	Amount of fluid
<b>Day 1</b>				
<b>Day 2</b>				
<b>Day 3</b>				
<b>Day 4</b>				
<b>Day 5</b>				
<b>Day 6</b>				
<b>Day 7</b>				
<b>Day 8</b>				
<b>Day 9</b>				

Day 10				
Day 11				
Day 12				
Day 13				
Day 14				