



JP DRAIN INSTRUCTIONS

1. Gather all the supplies that you will need: measuring cup, record sheet and gloves. The measuring cup should be supplied by the hospital at time of discharge or from home health care. The measuring cup will be marked in cc's or ml's. Be sure to empty your drain before going to bed at night, when you first get up in the morning and anytime you notice the bulb is half full or when the bulb is not flat in the middle.
2. Wash your hands with soap and water. Apply gloves if available.
3. Take the stopper out of the drainage bulb and empty the fluid in the bulb into the measuring cup.
4. Squeeze the drainage bulb and put the stopper back in place.
5. Record the amount of drainage in the measuring cup. Empty the drain as many times as needed in a 24 hour period. Add all the totals together in a 24-hour period. This number will be how much your JP drain is putting out in a 24-hour period. Be aware that you could have 2 drains. Do not combine the drainage together and record. Each drain's fluid should be recorded separately.
6. Dispose of the fluid in the sink or toilet. Wash and put away supplies. Wash your hands.

The amount of fluid draining over a 24-hour period will gradually decrease as the days pass. The fluid will change colors – from cherry red to red-yellow to straw color. **When the drainage is less than 30 cc in a 24-hour period for 2 consecutive days, call the office at 501-778-3361 to notify the nurse.**

Don't hesitate to call the office should you have any questions. The nurse needs to be notified if the insertion site has redness, drainage, odor or is hot to touch. Keep the area clean and dry. You may place dry gauze around the tube for protection.

Secure the tube and bulb while ambulatory. Do not allow it to hang freely. The JP drain is sutured in place but it can be pulled out. You may use a safety pin, belt or tuck the drain in your pants.

If drainage is leaking from the tube's insertion site then the tube may not be patent. Hold the tube in place while using a pen to "milk" the tube. It will be helpful to do this on a regular basis even if the tube shows no signs of clotting.

**** You should be taking antibiotics by mouth every day as long as you have the JP drain. Call the office before you run out of antibiotics.

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