

## Jackson-Pratt Drain Home Care Instructions

A Jackson-Pratt drain has been placed during your surgery today. This small tube removes blood and other fluids into a collection device. This helps healing and reduces the risk of swelling, hematoma formation and infection. Expect to see fluid and blood in the drain. The tube is stitched into place so you may feel a mild tugging and a burning sensation at the insertion site.

- Avoid sleeping on the same side as the drain.
- **Secure the tubing to your clothing to prevent dislodgement.** A safety pin secured with cloth tape and pinned to the clothing works well.
- Keep the drain and insertion site clean and dry. Sponge baths are preferred until the drain is removed.

### HOW TO EMPTY YOUR DRAIN

- Empty your drain every 24 hours or when the collection chamber is almost full.
  1. Wash your hands.
  2. Lift the stopper and the bulb will expand.
  3. Turn the drain upside down and empty into a measuring cup.
  4. Roll the bulb from the bottom toward the stopper-end, or squeeze until the bulb is flat.
  5. Secure the stopper.
  6. Flush the drainage down the toilet.
  7. Wash your hands.

**Record the amount of drainage on the drain record and bring this information with you to your follow-up appointment.**

### When to call your physician (Call 208-336-4368 to reach your physician)

- The tube becomes dislodged or pulled completely out.
- The stitches that hold the tube come loose or are missing.
- Redness or warmth around the site.
- Fever greater than 101 for 24 hours.
- An increase in drainage after an initial decrease.
- Drainage is cloudy or has a bad odor.



