

# PATIENT INFORMATION: HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR DRAIN

## How to Use the JP Drain or Hemovac Drain

You have been sent home with a \_\_\_\_\_ drain. It should be emptied as directed by your physician, or at least when the container is one-half (1/2) full.

If you have a Jackson-Pratt drain, to empty it, pull up on the plug and tilt the container to empty into a small, graduated container (to be used only for this purpose). Gently squeeze the container to express the liquid. When the container is empty, squeeze sides together and re-insert the plug or if a hemovac press down on top of container with plug open until flat like a pancake; then while holding flat replace plug in port. This procedure is called “re-charging”.

Your drain should be charged at all times. If you notice the sides of the bulb are not sunken in, open the JP drain, squeeze the sides and re-insert the plug. If you notice your drain is fully

open (i.e. not compressed), repeat above procedure.

Drains should be well taped at all times and the bulb should not be hanging down. Containers can be pinned to clothing. Drainage should be measured in the container provided for this purpose, and the amount recorded. After measuring, the drainage should be flushed down the toilet.

## Be sure to wash your hands well before and after the procedure.

Keep records of how much drainage has come from your drain and take these records to your surgeon at your next visit.

***This pamphlet is for educational purposes ONLY.***

***Contact your doctor to answer any other questions you may have.***

Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. #: \_\_\_\_\_

**For health advice or general health information from a Registered Nurse,  
call Telehealth Ontario: 1-866-797-0000**