

Surgical Associates of Fredericksburg
(540) 373-2244

Jackson Pratt Drain Care

Drain Purpose

- Drain is placed to allow excess blood or fluid used to irrigate during surgery to drain out of the body
- Helps to reduce the chance of infection
- Helps the wound heal faster

How the Drain Works

- A small tube is inserted into the surgical area during surgery and then connected to a reservoir (bulb)
- The bulb is squeezed and the cap put in place and this creates the suction needed to drain the fluid
- As the fluid fills the bulb the suction decreases
- The drain will be removed by your physician

How to Empty the Drain

- Empty every eight hours unless it fills up before eight hours
- Wash your hands
- Unpin the drain from your clothes
- Hold the drain upright and remove the cap
- Turn the drain over and squeeze the drainage into the measuring cup given to you at the hospital
- With the bulb squeezed tight replace the cap
- Secure the drain to your clothes (avoid underwear or pants) to prevent pull on the drain
- Measure and record the date, time, and amount of drainage (if more than one drain, record separate amounts)
- Empty the drainage into the toilet
- Wash your hands

Site Care

- Wash around drain with soap and water daily
- Keep clean, dry dressing in place
- Call the doctor, if:
 - > Redness, swelling, or a lot of drainage around the site
 - > If you are unable to flatten the bulb
 - > If the tube falls out
 - > If drainage begins to increase

Stripping of Drain

- Please ask nurse for instructions