

DRAIN CARE INSTRUCTIONS

1. Wash hands thoroughly before handling the drains.
2. Open the valve (the bulb will expand) and gently squeeze fluid from the bulb into a cup to measure.
3. Squeeze the bulb tightly in your hand and close the valve with the other hand (this reactivates the suction).
4. Measure the fluid and record the amount.
5. Keep a daily record (24-hour totals) of the fluid.
 - a. Each morning empty the drain at the same time to get accurate 24 hour totals.
 - b. You can empty the bulb as often as needed but remember to record the amount each time.
 - c. For example, good times to empty the bulb are when you get up in the morning, midday, and before bedtime or when the bulb is $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{2}{3}$ full.
6. If you have more than 1 drain, we will need separate total for each drain.
7. You can expect the drainage to first be bright red for 2-3 days, then turn pinkish and then turn clear amber in color.
 - a. We want the drainage to be less than 40 mL in a 24-hour period before removing the drain.

DRAIN SITE CARE

Drains will be covered with plastic dressing. Leave this dressing in place until drain is removed. You may shower in 48 hours.

When to call the doctor:

- Red and painful around the drain site.
- Fluid is cloudy
- Drain that is not holding suction.

