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### **INSTRUCTION SHEET - JP DRAINS**

**A Jackson Pratt Drain® is placed under the skin in order to remove blood and other body fluids (drainage) from collecting in that area. The drain usually stays in place until the drainage is a small amount. By following some simple instructions, you or your caregiver will be able to care for these at home.**

Plan to empty the drain TWO (2) times a day. The best times are in the morning when you get up, and in the evening before going to bed. Follow the instructions for reactivating suction any time you notice that the bulb has fully expanded.

#### **MEASURING:**

1. Wash your hands
2. Remove the drainage plug to release pressure
3. Allow bulb to fully expand
4. Note the amount of drainage in cc's
5. Empty the fluid out by turning the bulb upside down. Gently squeeze the bulb to remove contents into a disposable cup. Discard fluid.

#### **REACTIVATE SUCTION:**

1. Squeeze bulb to remove air
2. While squeezing, close drainage plug
3. Release the bulb
4. If you need to reactivate suction because the bulb has fully expanded, you will first need to release the drainage plug then follow steps 1, 2, and 3 above.
5. Wash your hands
6. Record amount on drainage sheet

#### **TROUBLE SHOOTING:**

1. Be sure to empty the bulb before it fills completely or the drain will not work properly
2. Keep accurate records of the amount and quality of the fluid
3. Be careful to keep the drain tightly in place

#### **NOTIFY THE OFFICE IF:**

1. The amount of fluid increases significantly or if the color becomes red after it turned to straw colored.
2. The drain falls out
3. The drain becomes clogged
4. There is redness around the skin



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