

Drain Care Instructions

Your surgery required the placement of drains to remove excess fluids from your wounds.

You will notice clear tubes exiting your body connecting to small reservoirs.

You will be taught how to care for the drains after surgery.

Please **empty** the drains every **eight hours** and record the volumes. List the volumes of each drain separately and then total the individual drain outputs every 24 hours. After the volume becomes low enough the drains will be removed. It is important that each drain is recorded separately.

Please **strip** the drains every four hours while awake and as needed. Stripping the drain tubes removes clots from the tubes and allows them to drain effectively. Stripping the tubes is very important to proper drain function.

The drainage will initially be red in color and progressively become thinner in character and change to a pale red and eventually become clear or straw colored. The time required for these changes to occur varies between patients.

You may not Shower or Bath until the drains are **removed**.

Please **call the office** if you have **any questions** or if we may be of assistance.

Please **call the office** if you develop an elevated temperature or if anything concerns you.