

# HOME CARE OF JACKSON-PRATT DRAINS

Edina Plastic Surgery, Ltd.

## *DAILY CARE OF JACKSON-PRATT DRAINS*

1. Keep bulb compressed at all times except while emptying it. The compression creates the suction to the surgical wound.
2. Bacitracin ointment may be used where the tubes enter the skin. Cover the site with gauze pads.
3. If drainage around the tube site is noted, change the gauze pads to keep the area dry. If you see a clot in the tube, and the tube does not appear to be draining, use your fingernail to “strip” the tubing. Empty bulb (see below) and recreate suction to the drain.
4. Clip/Pin bulbs to garment or clothes.
5. Immediately postoperatively and for 24-48 hours there usually is more fluid accumulation in the bulb. **EMPTY BULB WHENEVER IT BECOMES HALF FULL** since the drain does not create enough suction if it's too full. Record the amount emptied each time (on back of this sheet).
6. When drainage decreases, empty bulbs twice daily or as needed and record amounts for each day.
7. Continue daily cares until your Jackson-Pratt drains are removed.

## *TO EMPTY THE JACKSON-PRATT DRAIN*

1. Grasp the bulb (you may first need to unpin/unclip it from the garment)
2. Open the stopper to release the suction.
3. Look at the fluid level and estimate the volume contained in the bulb. The lowest line is 25 cc's/mLs. Any amount less than this please estimate.
4. Once the fluid volume has been measured (record amounts on reverse side), you may empty the bulb. Pour fluid into a paper cup and dispose of in the sink or toilet.
5. If you have more than one drain, they have been numbered #1, #2, #3 etc. Keep the totals separate on your drain log.
6. Compress (squeeze) the bulb by folding it in half to remove as much air as possible.
7. Replace the stopper. Re-pin/clip bulb to clothing or garment.

**Video demonstration is available at our website:**

<https://www.edinaplasticsurgery.com/resources/video-demonstrations/>

