



Information for You from Your Health Care Team

Discharge Instructions for Bellows Drain Care

A bellows drain is inserted by interventional radiology in order to drain a fluid collection in your body. If your doctor has found a fluid collection, often a drain is inserted to prevent infection. You will go home with this drain until your doctor feels it is ready to be removed. The following are instructions for skin care with the bellows drain:

1. Wash hands with soap and water.
2. Take off the old dressing and discard.
3. Look at the site for redness, swelling or drainage.
4. Make a mixture of half hydrogen peroxide and half saline. Dampen a gauze with this mixture and wash the drain site with the gauze in an outward circular motion.
5. Cover the drain site with a 4x4 gauze and tape the gauze to your abdomen. Change the dressing everyday for the first seven days and then every 3 days until the drain is removed.

Drainage Bag Care:

- Hang the bag lower than the incision to help with drainage.
- Always keep the bellows compressed to keep suction pressure.
- If your drainage bag has an emptying spout, empty the bag when it is ½ full. Keep a record of your drains outputs to show your doctor.
- If your drainage bag does not have a spout, do not try to empty it, your doctor or nurse will change the bag if needed. Mark the drainage twice daily on the bag's measurement line and keep a record to show your doctor your daily outputs.

Call Your Doctor if You Notice Any of the Following:

- Redness, swelling or pain at the drain site.
- Yellow/green drainage at the drain site.
- Firmness or warmth at the drain site.
- You have a temperature over 101 degrees F.
- Little or no drainage.
- Your drain becomes dislodged or broken.
- You have stitches and they become loose or cut.
- Your drain begins to leak at the incision site.
- There is blood in or around your drain.