

---

## Care of a Jackson Pratt Drain

---

A Jackson Pratt drain is used for about 24 to 48 hours after surgery to drain fluid caused by surgery. Some people go home with the drain in. A visiting nurse will check the drain and your incision and take the drain out when you are home.

To help you recover faster, you or a helper will need to empty and measure the fluid when the visiting nurse is not there.

### Follow these steps:

1. Wash and dry your hands.



2. Remove clip and the collection bottle from your clothing.



3. Take the cap off the collection bottle.



4. Squeeze the fluid into the measuring cup.
  - Measure the amount of fluid and write it down along with the date and time.
  - Report this to the visiting nurse.
  - Be sure to empty and measure the fluid in the collection bottle anytime it is more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  full.



4. With the cap still off, squeeze the bottle to get rid of the air. While squeezing, put the cap on. This starts the suction to pull more fluid out.



5. Clip the collection bottle on your clothing.

For best drainage, the drain should be lower than your incision.



6. Flush the fluid down the toilet and rinse the plastic measuring container.

7. Wash your hands again.



**Contact your doctor, visiting nurse or health care provider if:**

- your tube or incision is leaking – a small amount of oozing is normal
- you have signs of infection such as a red incision, pain that does not get better or an increase in temperature
- the drainage is stopping and the area around your incision increases in size, feels hard or is swelling
- your tube is blocked