

DRAIN CARE

- *Empty your drains before they become half full or in 4 hours which ever comes first**
- *Measure your drainage in cc's not ounces. The markings on the measuring bulb are in 10 cc increments. You may have to estimate drainage if it is not exactly on the line.**
- *Unplug the bulb cap so the bulb is not suctioning while measuring the fluid. The bulb should be round and not flat.**
- *Place the measuring device on a flat surface at eye level to measure accurately.**
- *The color and amount of drainage will vary. The color will start as a bloody color and eventually become lighter into a yellow or straw color, like apple juice.**
- *The right drain will be removed one week following surgery. The left drain is usually removed the second week, depending on the amount of drainage. For removal, there should only be 20-30 cc's of drainage in a 24 hour period of time for 2-3 days.**
- *Please keep accurate records and take the drain care sheet to the doctor's office on you first and second post-op visit.**
- *You will need to strip the drain 1-2 times a day to remove any clots in the tubing. This is done by grasping the tube as close to the skin as possible by holding the tubing tightly between two fingers, gently press down on the tubing with your other hand let the tubing glide between your thumb and index finger towards the drain. If you are doing this properly, you will see the tubing clear of blood and the tube will be flat. Continue to pinch with one hand and strip gently with the other hand until you reach the drain. Repeat on the other side.**
- *Secure the drains to your clothing or garment to ensure that the drains are not left dangling. Remember to remove the drains from clothing prior to using the bathroom or when changing clothes to prevent them from being pulled out prematurely.**
- *Bloody drainage around the insertion site of the drains is normal in small amounts. Any other drainage should be reported to your doctor.**
- *If your drains quit draining fluid, check for kinks on the tubing, clots in the tubing or see if the drain and tubing have becomes disconnected. If you cannot find the problem, notify your doctor.**

Please call our office if there are any further questions at 802-0120