

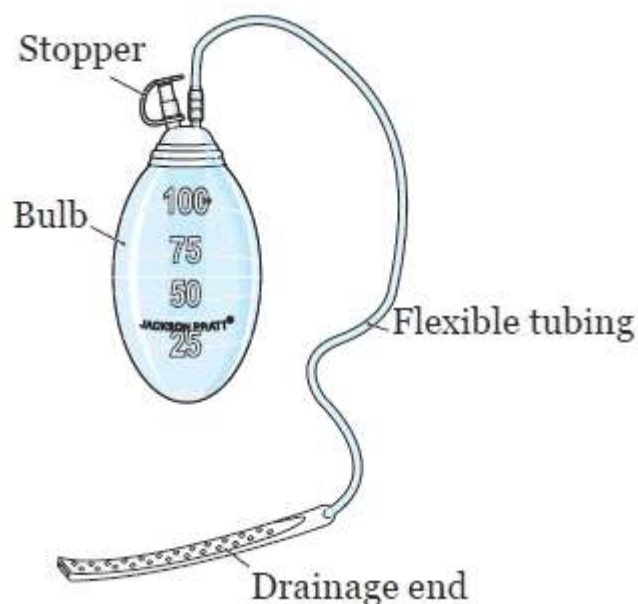
You are being sent home with a Jackson-Pratt (JP) drain. This type of drain, also known as a JP drain, is a soft, flexible tube connected to a suction bulb designed to gently pull fluid away from your surgical site. **Properly caring for your JP drain is essential for your recovery.** Please read the attached instructions in their entirety.

### **About Your Jackson-Pratt Drain**

Your Jackson-Pratt drain has a soft plastic bulb with a stopper and a flexible tube attached to it. The drainage end of the tubing (flat white part) is placed into your surgical site through a small opening near your incision. This area is called the insertion site. A suture (stitch) will hold it in place. The rest of the tube will extend outside your body and will be attached to the bulb.

When the bulb is compressed (squeezed) with the stopper in place, a constant gentle suction is created. The bulb should be compressed at all times, except when you're emptying the drainage.

How long you'll have your Jackson-Pratt drain depends on your surgery and the amount of drainage you're having. Everyone's drainage is different. Some people drain a lot, some only a little. The Jackson-Pratt drain is usually removed when the drainage is 30 mL or less over 24 hours. You'll write down the amount of drainage you have in the drainage log at the end of this resource. It's important to bring your log to your follow-up appointments.



### **Caring For Your Jackson-Pratt Drain**

When you leave the surgery center, you'll care for your Jackson-Pratt drain by:

- 'Stripping' your tubing to help move clots.
- Emptying your drain 4 times a day (breakfast, lunch, dinner, and before bed) and writing down the amount of drainage on your Jackson-Pratt drainage log at the end of this resource.
- If you have more than 1 drain, make sure to measure and write down the drainage of each one separately. Don't add them together.
- Caring for your insertion site.
- Checking for problems.

## **Stripping Your Tubing**

These steps will help you move clots through your tubing and keep the drainage flowing.

Strip your tubing before you open the stopper to empty and measure your drainage. You should also do this if you see fluid leaking around the insertion site.

1. Clean your hands.
  - To wash your hands with soap and water, wet your hands, apply soap, rub them together for at least 20 seconds, then rinse. Dry your hands with a towel and use that same towel to turn off the faucet.
  - If you're using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, cover your hands with it, rubbing them together until they're dry.
2. Look in the mirror at the tubing. This will help you see where your hands need to be.
3. Pinch the tubing close to where it goes into your skin between the thumb and forefinger of your hand. Keep this hand in place while you milk your tubing. This will help make sure that you aren't tugging on your skin, which can be painful.
4. With the thumb and forefinger of your other hand, pinch the tubing right below your other fingers. Keeping your fingers pinched, slide them down the tubing, pushing any clots down toward the bulb. You may want to use alcohol wipes to help you slide your fingers down the tubing. These can be easily purchased from any local pharmacy.
5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 as many times as you need to push clots from the tubing into the bulb. If you can't move a clot into the bulb and there's little or no drainage in the bulb, call your healthcare provider.

## **Emptying Your Drain**

You'll need to empty your Jackson-Pratt drain 4 times a day: at breakfast, lunch, dinner and before bed. Follow these instructions when emptying your Jackson-Pratt drain.

1. Prepare a clean area to work on. This can be done in your bathroom or in an area with a dry, uncluttered surface.
2. Gather your supplies. You'll need:
  - The measuring container your nurse gave you
  - Your Jackson-Pratt drainage log
  - A pen or pencil
3. Clean your hands.
  - To wash your hands with soap and water, wet your hands, apply soap, rub them together for at least 20 seconds, then rinse. Dry your hands with a towel and use that same towel to turn off the faucet.
  - If you're using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, cover your hands with it, rubbing them together until they're dry.

4. If the drainage bulb is attached to your supportive underwear or wrap, first remove it from there.
5. Unplug the stopper on top of the bulb. This will make the bulb expand. Don't touch the inside of the stopper or the inner area of the opening on the bulb.
6. Turn the bulb upside down and gently squeeze it. Pour the drainage into the measuring container.
7. Turn your bulb right side up.
8. Squeeze the bulb until your fingers feel the palm of your hand.
9. Continue to squeeze the bulb while you replug the stopper.
10. Check to see that the bulb stays fully compressed to ensure a constant gentle suction.
11. Don't let the drain dangle.
  - If you're wearing supportive underwear, attach the drainage bulb to the elastic strap.
  - It may be helpful to hold your drain in a fanny pack, belt bag. Make sure the drainage bulb is not being squeezed and has room to 'breathe'.
12. Check the amount and color of drainage in the measuring container. The first couple of days after surgery, the fluid may be a dark red color. This is normal. As you continue to heal, it may look pink or pale yellow.
13. Write down the amount and color of your drainage on your Jackson-Pratt drainage log.
14. Flush the drainage down the toilet and rinse the measuring container with water.
15. At the end of each day, add up the total amount of drainage you had for the day and write it in the last column of the drainage log. If you have more than 1 drain, measure and record each one separately.



### **Caring For Your Skin After Your Drain Is Removed**

Your drain will be removed at your doctor's office. You'll have a bandage over the insertion site.

It's important to keep your insertion site and the area around it clean and dry. This will help prevent infection and promote healing of your skin.

- Remove the bandage after 24 hours.
- You may shower after you remove the bandage, but don't take a tub bath or submerge the area in water (such as in a bathtub or swimming pool) until at least 1 month following surgery.
- Wash the site gently with soap and rinse the area with warm water. Pat the area dry.



## Dr. Tatem JP Drain Instructions

Clinic (317) 564-5104 | Surgery Scheduling (317) 807-0159

### JP Drain Output Record Log

Please bring this form with you to your office visit.

	JP Drain Output (mL)		JP Drain Output (mL)
<b>Date:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Breakfast</b>		<b>Breakfast</b>	
<b>Lunch</b>		<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>Dinner</b>		<b>Dinner</b>	
<b>Before Bed</b>		<b>Before Bed</b>	
	Total:		Total:
<b>Date:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Breakfast</b>		<b>Breakfast</b>	
<b>Lunch</b>		<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>Dinner</b>		<b>Dinner</b>	
<b>Before Bed</b>		<b>Before Bed</b>	
	Total:		Total:
<b>Date:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Breakfast</b>		<b>Breakfast</b>	
<b>Lunch</b>		<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>Dinner</b>		<b>Dinner</b>	
<b>Before Bed</b>		<b>Before Bed</b>	
	Total:		Total:
<b>Date:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Breakfast</b>		<b>Breakfast</b>	
<b>Lunch</b>		<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>Dinner</b>		<b>Dinner</b>	
<b>Before Bed</b>		<b>Before Bed</b>	
	Total:		Total: