

Patient/district nurse guidelines for care of your drain

- Hygiene is of paramount importance. Prior to handling the drain or drainage bag, please wash your hands.
- Patients who are discharged with a drains in situ. These remain in place for 5- 7 days, or they can be removed earlier if they are draining less than 50mls with any 24 hour period
- The drain will have a bag or bottle attached with measurements on them. This will enable you to approximate how much you're losing in every 24 hour period; you can record this in the back of your drain booklet
- The measuring bag or bottle can be changed if the bag becomes too heavy or full.
- Disposal of the bag- This can be achieved by tearing the bag where you see the blue arrow, empty the contents into your toilet, then wrap the bag in newspaper and put into your normal dustbin. Disposal of the bottle-Please return these to clinic when you next attend for disposal.
- The drain insertion site is covered with dry dressing and the drain is held in place with one stitch. This should be left in place and kept dry until the drain is removed.

- If there is any leakage around the drain site while it remain in place, then a secondary dressing can be applied over the top of the original dressing, or your district nurse can replace it.
- When the drain is removed by your district nurse or breast care nurse the insertion site will be covered with a dressing and this will heal within 48 hours. There may be some leakage during this time and the dressing may need to be replaced which you can do. All dressing can be removed after 48hours and you can bathe as normal.
- An explanatory drain booklet/leaflet will be given to you by your breast care nurse for information and advice
- If you have any problems with your drain you can contact the breast care secretaries Monday – Thursday day 9am – 4.00pm and Fridays 9.00am- 13.00pm a Breast Care Nurse will return your call. Please leave a message if the call is unanswered
- If you require help outside of these times then please contact your own GP. If your GP Practice is closed or unavailable, when you call your own GP you will hear a message with the contact number for the 'out of hours' GP please contact them for advice.
- In the unlikely event that you are feeling very unwell or are experiencing excessive bleeding from the drain or insertion site, then you should attend the Accident & Emergency Department nearest to you.