



Drain Discharge Instructions

No driving for 24 hours: You are not to drive yourself home from the procedure or for the remainder of the day.

Activity: You may resume regular activities the day after the procedure. No heavy lifting over 15 pounds and no strenuous activity for 3 days.

Tube Care: You may empty your drainage bag as needed by twisting the cap on the bag open/closed above a toilet, sink, bathtub, etc. To maintain good drainage from your tube, try to keep the drainage bag below the level of the drain site. Keep the skin around the drain tube clean. To prevent infection, a sterile dressing should be placed over the site where the tube leaves the body. The dressing should be changed at least twice a week. You must change the dressing if it becomes wet. You may shower 2 days after the tube is placed, but the tube must remain dry. You may protect the dressing with plastic wrap taped to your skin so the dressing is completely covered. No tub baths or swimming.

Avoid touching the catheter as much as possible. Wash your hands with antibacterial soap if the catheter must be touched. The tube can be cleaned with a mild liquid soap and water, and rinsed well as needed. The drainage bag can be cleaned with 1:1 white vinegar and water as needed. Hydrogen peroxide can be used to clean the skin site as needed.

Flushing: You should flush your drain once daily with 10 mL saline. Please see separate **3-Way Flow Switch** sheet for specific instructions on flushing.

Pain Control: You may take Tylenol for pain. You may take Advil or Ibuprofen 2 days after the procedure unless contraindicated. Blood thinners may be resumed 2 days after the procedure or as instructed by prescribing physician.

Follow Up Care: Your drain may remain in place as long as required by your referring physician. Once drainage slows to less than 10 mL/day, or stops completely, your drain may be ready to be removed. Notify your referring physician when/if this occurs. A follow up scan may be necessary to ensure resolution of fluid collection prior to removal of drain.

Call us *immediately* if you experience any of the following:

- ❖ Temperature greater than 101°F
- ❖ Shaking chills (rigors)
- ❖ Severe pain, leakage, or active bleeding/drainage around the catheter site
- ❖ Increased redness or swelling at the catheter site
- ❖ Sutures become loose or tube falls out. Do NOT attempt to reposition or replace the catheter

**If you have any questions or concerns, please call
Radiology Associates of Atlanta at 404-352-1409**