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Jackson-Pratt (JP) Drains

- **JP DRAINS:** The purpose of JP drains is to keep the blood and drainage minimized at your surgical area. They work by applying low pressure suction at the site.
- **EMPTYING YOUR DRAIN:** You will need to empty, measure, and reapply negative pressure to the drain(s) 3 times daily; or more often as needed. When the drain is half full or does not have a collapsed shape, it is time to empty it. To empty the drain, pull the stopper out, being careful not to touch the inside of the stopper or the bulb. Squeeze the bulb into a collapsed position and replace the stopper. The bulb should maintain a collapsed position after the stopper is replaced. Record the amount of drainage on your output record. If you have more than one JP drain, record outputs separately. Drainage can be flushed down the toilet. Bring your output record with you to each postoperative visit.
- **STRIPPING:** If the drainage stops, inspect the tubing for a clot. If the tubing appears clotted, you will need to strip the drain. With one hand, secure the end of the tubing on the side of the tubing closest to the incision. With the other hand, squeeze the tubing with one finger and your thumb. While squeezing the tube, pull toward the bulb to expel the clot into the bulb. Reapply suction. Stripping is easier if you obtain some liquid soap to help slide your fingers down the tube.
- **DISCONTINUING DRAINS:** When the drainage reaches 24ml's or less in a 24 hour period, contact the office for an appointment. We will evaluate drainage amounts and discontinue your drains in the office.
- **SITE CARE:** Place gauze around the site by wrapping it around the tubing.
- **LOSS OF SUCTION:** Occasionally, the drain tube will become loose and fail to apply suction. You will possibly hear air movement when you attempt to apply suction. Inspect that all connections are tight. Please contact our office and a nurse will assist you with this.
- **SHOWERING:** You may shower and allow clean water to run over the site; however, strictly avoid submerging drains underwater. Dry the area with a towel and apply dry dressings after your showering.

I understand and have received a copy of the post-op instructions

Signature: _____ Date: _____