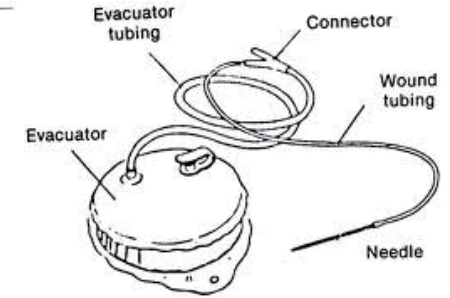
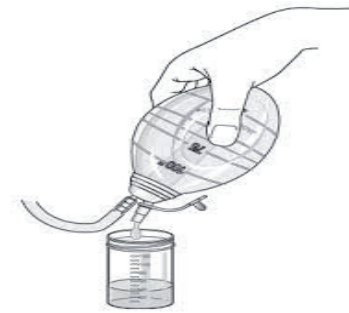


## Instructions

**FOLLOW THESE STEPS FOR EMPTYING YOUR DRAIN CONTAINERS:**

- 1) Wash your hands
- 2) Detach the drain from your clothing.
- 3) Standing or sitting over the measuring cup, open the plastic tab to the pour spout. .
- 4) Carefully pour the contents into the measuring cup.
- 5) Squeeze the reservoir of the drain, and hold it flat
- 6) Close the plastic tab on the spout while the sides are compressed (pressed together)
- 7) Measure and record the amount of fluid as instructed. *Please use this drain flow sheet.* Then discard fluid down the toilet.
- 8) Wash your hands.



### Drain Flow Sheet

Week 1		Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Drain Site 1	AM							
	PM							
	<b>Total:</b>							
Drain Site 2 (if needed)	AM							
	PM							
	<b>Totals:</b>							

Week 2		Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Drain Site 1	AM							
	PM							
	<b>Total:</b>							
Drain Site 2 (if needed)	AM							
	PM							
	<b>Totals:</b>							

Week 3		Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Drain Site 1	AM							
	PM							
	<b>Total:</b>							
Drain Site 2 (if needed)	AM							
	PM							
	<b>Totals:</b>							

After surgical procedures, including removal of the lymph nodes from the axillae (armpit), groin or neck you may expect to go home with at least one closed suction drain. This means you can be recovering at home rather than remaining in hospital.

A drain is used to insure that your surgical site does not collect the extra fluid the body normally produces after an operation. Most drains stay in place for 1-3 weeks. When drainage has decreased to about 20-30 mls each day the drain will usually be removed.

#### Advice regarding your Drain

1. Be aware of the drain at all times especially during active periods. The drain is held by a suture to your skin. Keep the drain secured to your clothing with a drain clip or safety pin. The drain should be lower than your wound site at all times. At first this fluid is bloody, as your wound heals, the fluid becomes light pink, light yellow, or clear.
2. Observe your drain several times during the day. Inspect it to ensure it has not moved out of position (dislodged) or lost its suction. Inspect the dressing for any signs of leakage or spotting of blood. If this happens or in the event that you develop a temperature, or that the drain won't remain on suction or accidentally falls out, contact the skin oncology CNS or the plastic surgery registrar (on call) out of normal hours or present to the Emergency Department. **To keep the suction applied on the drain the reservoir (drain container) should be kept compressed (squeezed in) all the time.**
3. The drain container should be emptied once a day. This must be done at the same time each day. Empty the fluid into the plastic measuring jug. Measure and record the amount of fluid as instructed by your nurse.



4. Guard against pulling on the drain tubes. Keep them free of restrictions.

A **Drain Flow Sheet** is provided for you to record the **time** and the **amount** emptied from the drain please bring this with you on your clinic visits after surgery.

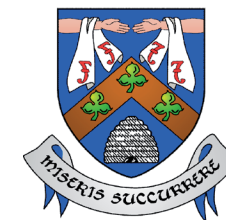
#### **Contact Telephone Number**

Mr. Martin Secretary	01 8092151
Mr. Kneafsey Secretary	01 7974781
Mr. Sullivan Secretary	01 7974781
Mr. Ajmal Secretary	01 8093309
Mr. O Sullivan Secretary	01 8092042
Prof. Hill Secretary	01 7974608
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#### **Further Information**

If you have any questions about the information that you have read, please contact the Skin Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist  
Tel: 01 7977319 / 01 7977773

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Beaumont Hospital  
Surgical Directorate

## Patient Information on

# Drain Care after Plastic Surgery