



Drain Care Discharge Instructions

You received a percutaneous drain to help remove a fluid collection from your body. Before you leave the hospital, make sure you and your family know how to change the dressing, flush the tube, and know where to get supplies. Review the following instructions carefully to learn how to care for your drain.

Flushing

You should flush your drainage catheter 1-2x daily with 10 ml sterile saline (or as instructed by your doctor). Flushing the catheter helps to prevent it from getting clogged. Please review the step-by-step flushing instructions on page 3.

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 site clean. To prevent infection, a clean dressing should be placed over the site where the tube leaves the body. The dressing should be changed every 3 days or as often as needed. You will need to change the dressing if it becomes wet. You may shower while the drain is in place, but the tube must remain dry. Protect the dressing with plastic wrap taped over the dressing so that it is completely covered when showering. Refrain from submerging the drain in water i.e.: taking baths or swimming.

Avoid pulling the catheter as much as possible. The outside of the tubing 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.

Follow Up Care

Measure and record output from the drain daily using the **Drainage Record sheet**. Once drain output decreases to less than 10-15 mL/day, or stops completely, your drain may be ready for removal. Call Quantum Radiology when this occurs. A follow up CT is needed to ensure resolution of the fluid collection before the drain can be removed. Quantum Radiology will obtain authorization from your insurance provider and will then reach out to you with instructions on how to schedule your outpatient follow-up CT scan.

It may take several days to receive authorization from your insurance provider. Once follow up imaging is approved, you will be instructed to call Wellstar Centralized Scheduling to make an appointment. On the day of your appointment, if the CT scan shows the fluid collection has resolved, you will be instructed to come to our office for drain removal. If the fluid collection has not resolved, the drain may need to stay in place for a few more days.

Call Quantum Radiology *immediately* at 678-581-3830 if you experience any of the following:

- Signs of infection - fever > 100.5°F, chills, foul smelling discharge, or pus at insertion site
- Increasing pain, leakage, or blood around the catheter insertion site
- Increased redness, swelling, or warmth at the catheter insertion site
- Collection bag no longer holds suction
- Catheter becomes dislodged, broken, or falls out. Do NOT attempt to reposition/replace the catheter yourself
- Tube Problems:
 - Tube appears to be blocked
 - Pain when flushing the drain
 - Fluid leaking from the insertion site
 - Difficulty flushing the tube (hard to push the saline out of the syringe)

What is an Accordion Drain?



An accordion drain is a collection device connected to your drain/tube that allows for continuous suction. It consists of a collection bag, where fluid accumulates as it is being removed from your body, and an accordion-like pump. The pump, when compressed, allows for continuous suction.

To maintain suction on your drain, you will need to check the accordion pump periodically throughout the day to make sure that it is compressed (collapsed). If it is expanded, then it is no longer producing any suction. To compress it, push down on top of the pump (see picture). Any fluid collected in the pump will go into the

collection bag. Make sure to record how much fluid is being collected daily.

How do I drain the bag?

If the collection bag is getting full, you can empty it down the drain or toilet by twisting the blue cap at the bottom of the bag. This cap acts like a valve. If you twist it one way, it opens to let the fluid drain out. Once the bag is empty, remember to tighten the cap again or fluid will spill out.

If the Tube Stops Draining

1. First make sure the accordion pump is compressed and maintaining suction. If the accordion immediately fills with air after it is compressed, then there could be a malfunction in the drain or collection system. Call Quantum Radiology at **678-581-3830** to discuss with a provider. In most cases, if no fluid is being produced and the pump is functioning properly, this is a good sign the fluid collection may have resolved. Refer to the **Follow Up Care** instructions on page 1 to know when it is time to call Quantum Radiology to start the drain removal process.



2. Make sure the pathway from the tube is open. The lever marked OFF should be pointing towards the flush port.
3. Check for kinks in the tube. If a kink is present, try taping the tube so that it lies smooth.
4. Inspect the tube to see if something is blocking the inside of the tube such i.e., tissue or old blood. Try flushing the tube to both the body and the bag. This is done by turning the stopcock OFF to the bag+ flushing to the body, then OFF to the body+ flushing to the bag.

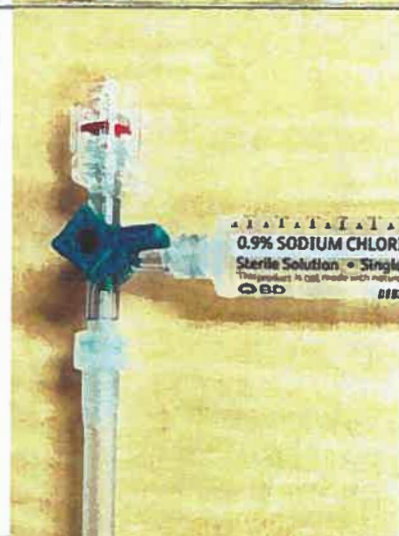
Call Quantum Radiology at **678-581-3830** if you cannot flush the tube.



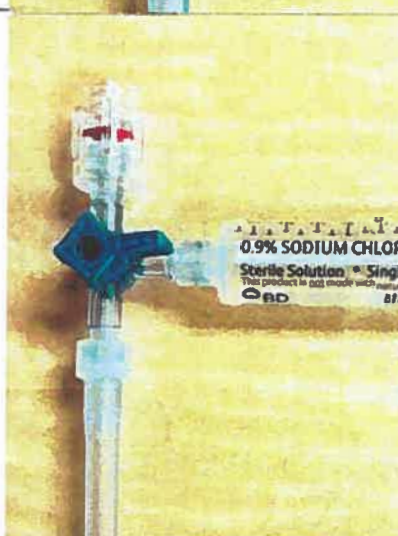
1. Gather your supplies - alcohol wipes, saline syringe, gloves.
2. Wash and dry your hands.
3. Remove the cap from the saline syringe and remove any air from the syringe.
4. Twist off the cap from the side port and clean with alcohol wipe.



7a. Occasionally you will need to flush the tubing that goes to the bag. Attach a saline syringe to the side port, turn the OFF lever up towards the body, and gently flush the tubing with saline.



5. Attach the saline syringe by pushing firmly into the side port and twisting.
6. Turn the OFF lever towards the bag. This closes flow to the bag.



8. Turn the OFF lever back towards the side port.
9. Twist the saline syringe to disconnect from the side port.



7. Push the syringe plunger gently but steadily - injecting 10 ml saline into the drain
- Stop if resistance or pain is felt.



10. Place the cap back on to the side port.

Call Quantum Radiology at
678-581-3830
with questions or concerns.



Please keep this daily record of drain output.

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