

Drainage Tube Insertion Discharge Instructions

What are my care instructions?

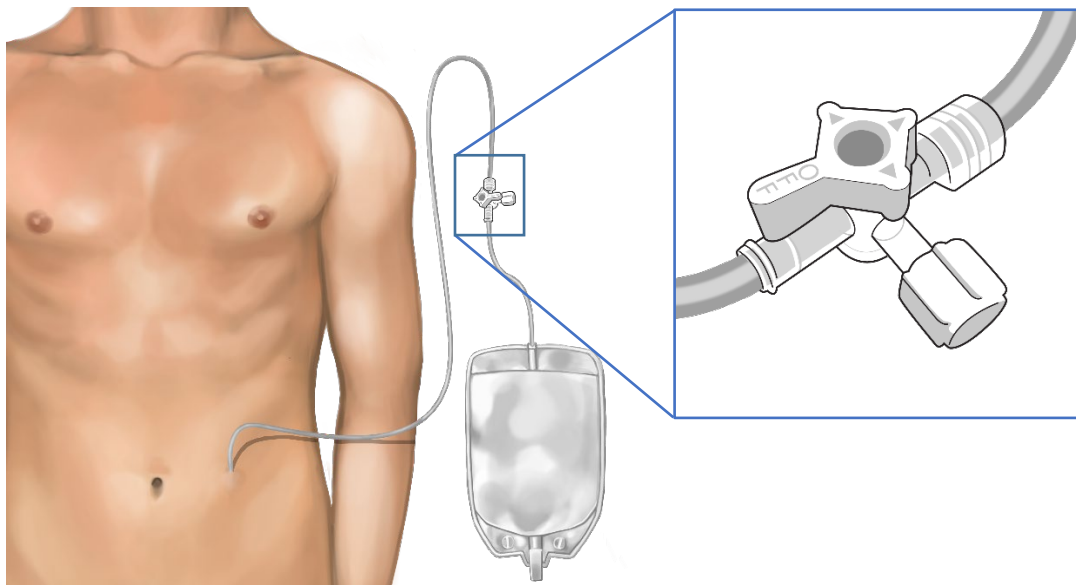
You received local anesthesia during your Radiology Procedure. As the local anesthesia wears off, you may feel some pain and discomfort from your procedure. The area where your procedure was performed may be sore or bruised.

- If you have pain, don't be afraid to say so. Pain medicine works better if you take it before the pain gets bad.

Follow-up care is the key part of your treatment and safety.

- Be sure to make and go to all appointments, and call your doctor if you are having problems.
- Empty the bag or bulb as needed.

Important reminder: Make sure the stopcock is in the **off** position when emptying the bag.



How will I care for myself at home?

Activity

- You may shower 24 hours after your drain tube has been placed. Before showering, cover the drain tube dressing with a double layer of plastic wrap and tape the edges to your skin. After showering remove plastic wrap and change dressing if it has gotten wet.
- No tub baths, swimming or hot tubs.
- Change the dressing every 1-2 days or after a shower using following steps:
 - Wash your hands
 - Remove old dressing
 - Clean around tube with a cotton ball moistened with hydrogen peroxide.
 - Apply antibiotic ointment to skin around the tube.
 - Dress with gauze pads and tape. Be careful not to kink your tube.
- Avoid any activity that causes a pulling sensation or pain around the tube.

Diet

- You can eat your normal diet. If your stomach is upset, try bland, low-fat foods like plain rice, toast and yogurt
- Drink plenty of fluids (unless your doctor tells you not to).

Irrigation

Gently irrigate the tube with 5cc's of normal saline every 8 hours, or as directed by your provider. Withdraw at least the same volume as you put in.

Medications

You can take your normal prescription medicines as your doctor has instructed you to do.

When should I call for help?

Call Cross-Sectional Interventional Services at (734) 615-3486 between 8:00am - 5:00pm Monday through Friday, if you have **any** of the following signs and symptoms:

- Increased pain where the tube is inserted
- Increased or more short of breath
- Continuous vomiting
- Tube stops draining or the drainage decreases to less than 20 ml's in a 48-hour time frame.
- Back or abdominal pain which may indicate an infection
- Fever (greater than 100.6°F) or chills
- Foul smelling drainage or abnormal bleeding from the tube site
- Excessive leakage or redness around the tube site
- If the tube falls out:
 - Cover the hole in the skin with gauze pads and tape.
 - Call Cross-Sectional Interventional Services at (734) 936-7657 for instructions on how to get the tube replaced. Services are available 8:00am - 5:00pm Monday through Friday.
 - After hours and on holidays please call (734) 763-1800 and ask to speak with the **Radiology Superchief** on call.
- Call 911 anytime if you have any of the following signs and symptoms:
 - Shortness of breath
 - Chest pains
 - Loss of consciousness - (if you passed out or fainted)
 - Call 911 anytime you think you need emergency care.

Disclaimer: This document contains information and/or instructional materials developed by Michigan Medicine for the typical patient with your condition. It may include links to online content that was not created by Michigan Medicine and for which Michigan Medicine does not assume responsibility. It does not replace medical advice from your health care provider because your experience may differ from that of the typical patient. Talk to your health care provider if you have any questions about this document, your condition or your treatment plan.

Author: Ellen Higgins, PA-C

Patient Education by [Michigan Medicine](#) is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International Public License](#). Last Revised 01/2021