



## DRAIN CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Your surgery requires the use of flexible drain(s) to remove excess fluid from the surgical site. They are connected to small reservoirs (bulbs). Your nurse will teach you how to care for the drain(s) after surgery.

Please EMPTY the drain(s) every EIGHT HOURS and record the output below in CC's or ML's. Please do NOT measure in ounces. List each drain output separately and total the output per individual drain every 24 hours. The drain(s) will be removed when the output is low enough. Your nurse will provide you with a measuring device and teach you how to empty the bulbs.

Please STRIP the drain(s) every six hours while awake. Stripping the drains will help remove clots and allow them to drain effectively. Your nurse will teach you the technique of stripping the drain tubes.

Drain Color: Expect the drainage initially to be red in color. It will become thinner and paler with time and eventually change to pale red to straw colored.

Bathing: You MAY NOT take a bath with the drain; you MAY shower with the drain present. Use a safety-pin to secure the drain bulb to a cloth or gauze belt to allow your hands to be free.

**PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE AT 301-215-5955 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR RECOVERY OR DRAIN CARE.**

	DAY #1				DAY #2				DAY #3			
DRAIN	AM	NOON	PM	TOTAL	AM	NOON	PM	TOTAL	AM	NOON	PM	TOTAL
#1												
#2												
#3												
#4												
	DAY #4				DAY #5				DAY #6			
#1												
#2												
#3												
#4												
	DAY #7				DAY #8				DAY #9			
#1												
#2												
#3												
#4												