

# Gravity Drain Care – Vascular & Interventional Radiology (VIR)

## About the gravity drainage system

- This drain helps remove fluid from a wound or from a space in your body. The tube stays in until the fluid slows down.

## Supplies you will take home

Before you go home, we will give you these supplies:

- 30 saline flushes (10 ml each)
- 30 alcohol pads
- 8 split dressing gauze
- 8 Tegaderm dressing (if not allergic)
- Medical tape (if not allergic)
- Extra drainage bag for each drain
- 2 stopcock valves
- 8 saline lock caps
- Graduated cylinder (1 per drain)
- Printed drainage log

## How to care for the drain

- **Flush** the drain with 10 ml normal saline **every 12 hours**. Check it each day.
- **Record input and output** on the Drainage Log. Track how much saline you flush in and how much fluid comes out. Try to do this at the same time each day. Take the Log with you to your follow-up visit.
- Keep using the **gravity drain** – follow our instructions. Once the output is less than 10 ml a day for 48 hours, it may be time to take out the drain. Contact the VIR Clinic at 859-562-1906, or discuss at your next follow-up visit.
- Apply a **dry dressing** around drain site weekly, or if it gets wet or dirty. A large IV dressing should work best.
- **Clean the drain site** with warm soapy water and a clean cloth. Let it completely air dry before putting on a clean dressing. Do this at least once a day.
- **Check your skin**. If the skin near the drain is red or itchy, clean the area more often until it gets better. For example, clean the site twice a day.
- **Attach the drain tube** to your skin to keep it in place. Do this whether or not it is stitched in place.
- **Keep the drain system dry.**
- **Follow up** with VIR Clinic at 859-562-1906 for appointments or questions.
- Follow the **step-by-step directions in the "Flushable Drain Care" handout**. These directions will be printed and given to you before you leave the hospital.

### Follow up and other appointments with the VIR Clinic

- **First follow-up visit.** We will call you to schedule a follow-up visit with the Vascular and Interventional Radiology Clinic. You should be seen in our clinic **within 2 weeks** after leaving the hospital. If you have not been contacted to schedule this appointment, please contact the VIR Clinic at 859-562-1906.
- **To schedule or reschedule a clinic visit,** call 859-562-1906.
- **To reschedule a procedure,** call our schedulers at 859-323-9729, option 4.

### VIR Clinic location and phone number

**Vascular & Interventional Radiology Clinic**  
Kentucky Clinic, 1st floor  
740 S. Limestone, Room E101  
Lexington, KY 40536  
859-562-1906

### In case of emergency

- For **any emergency**, please **go to the nearest Emergency Room or dial 911**.

### If you have questions or concerns about the drain

- Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., call the VIR Clinic at 859-562-1906.
- After hours, weekends, and holidays, call 859-323-5321. Ask for the Interventional Radiology provider on call.

# Drainage Log

You must keep a daily log of your drain output. Each day, log the output from drain. Remember to subtract the amount of saline injected into catheter. Bring this log to your follow-up visits.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

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