

Breast Treatment Associates

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Surgical Oncology of the Breast

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DRAIN INSTRUCTIONS

- Dr. Cross will place drains into patients having an axillary dissection or mastectomy. Occasionally other types of surgeries will require a drain if Dr. Cross is worried that you may accumulate drainage under the skin.
- You will need to strip, empty, measure, and recharge your drains at least 3 times a day once you are home. If the drain gets full, it needs to be emptied right away.
- You will need to keep a clean, dry dressing over your drain site at all times.
- You will need to have sponge baths only until all drains are removed (no showers or baths).
- **TO STRIP YOUR DRAIN:** Hold the drain tubing against your skin where it goes into your body. Put liquid soap on the other hand, between your index finger and thumb. Pull downwards toward the bulb to loosen any clots or debris in the tubing.
- **TO EMPTY:** Take the stopper off of the bulb, turn upside down, and squeeze into the measuring cup.
- **TO MEASURE:** Look at the markings on the measuring cup. Write down how much came out of the drain.
- **TO RECHARGE:** Squeeze the bulb and put the stopper back on before letting go of the bulb.
- **WHEN TO CALL THE CLINIC:** Call us once your drain output is less than 30 mL in 24 hours. We will make an appointment for you to come in and have your drain taken out. If you have to continually empty your drain, call the clinic. If the skin around your drain turns red or is draining pus, call the clinic. Please call us if you have any questions or concerns.
- Use the following output record to record how much fluid you empty. Please bring this record with you to the office until all drains are removed.

DRAIN OUTPUT RECORD

DAY	DRAIN 1	DRAIN 2
1	Morning: Noon: Evening:	Morning: Noon: Evening:
2	Morning: Noon: Evening:	Morning: Noon: Evening:
3	Morning: Noon: Evening:	Morning: Noon: Evening:
4	Morning: Noon: Evening:	Morning: Noon: Evening:
5	Morning: Noon: Evening:	Morning: Noon: Evening:
6	Morning: Noon: Evening:	Morning: Noon: Evening:
7	Morning: Noon: Evening:	Morning: Noon: Evening:
8	Morning: Noon: Evening:	Morning: Noon: Evening:
9	Morning: Noon: Evening:	Morning: Noon: Evening:
10	Morning: Noon: Evening:	Morning: Noon: Evening:
11	Morning: Noon: Evening:	Morning: Noon: Evening:
12	Morning: Noon: Evening:	Morning: Noon: Evening: