

Breast Patients discharged with Portavac Drain

Patient Label:

Date of Discharge

Discharging Nurse

Further Information

We endeavour to provide an excellent service at all times, but should you have any concerns please, in the first instance, raise these with the Matron, Senior Nurse or Manager on duty. If they cannot resolve your concern, please contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01932 723553 or email pals@asph.nhs.uk. If you still remain concerned please contact our Complaints Manager on 01932 722612 or email complaints@asph.nhs.uk

Author: Regina Santos

Department: Breast Clinic

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Contact Numbers

After discharge, should you have any concerns or queries, please contact the Breast Care Nurses during office hours:

Telephone numbers of Breast Care Nurses: -

At Ashford Hospital direct **01784 884411**
Via switchboard **01784 884488** bleep **8855**

St Peter's Hospital direct **01932 722771**
Via switchboard **01932 872000** bleep **5129**

At evenings and weekends direct telephone number of the ward:

Dickens Ward **01784 884004 / 884574**

Introduction

A wound drain may be inserted following surgery to the breast and/or under the arm. This helps to prevent fluid collecting and causing swelling which increases the risk of infection. It will also minimise any bruising to the area.

The drain will normally stay in for around 5-7 days or may be longer, depending on the amount of 24 hour drainage. You will be advised to bring a specific bag in which to keep your drain. This can be attached to your waist with a belt.

Emptying the Drain

During your hospital stay, your drain is emptied and the amount recorded at midnight. On discharge, you can empty the drain in the morning at a time that is convenient for you. What is important is that you empty the drain at the same time each day and record the amount. You will be provided with a measuring jug and some antiseptic wipes.

Removal of the Drain

Before you are discharged from hospital, a plan will have been put in place for removal of the drain once the volume of drainage has reduced. This is usually arranged with a breast care nurse or if appropriate, the ward nurses will make the necessary referral for the District Nurse to visit you at home. The drain may be removed if the 24-hour drainage is equal to or less than 30mls.

Step 1



Clamp off tubing

Step 3



Empty drain into measuring jug (which will be provided by the Ward) **Record the amount of fluid drained**

Step 5



Whilst holding drain down, replace blue stopper

Step 2



Remove blue stopper

Step 4



To apply suction – press down drain. Full compression not required

Step 6



Release clamp

Potential Problems

Sometimes the drain can become disconnected at one of the two sites.

Should this happen, **do not panic** – just follow the steps below to reconnect.

If it disconnects at the drain end:



Place the tubing into the drain and re-suction (Steps 4 and 5)

If it disconnects at the wound end:



Re-connect the tubing together and re-suction (Steps 4 and 5)