

## **Discharge Instructions: Caring for Your Jackson Pratt Drainage Tube**

You have been discharged with a Jackson Pratt drainage tube. This tube will help healing and reduce the risk of infection by removing fluid through your incision. It is attached to a drain or collection device where you will see fluid or blood. A bandage at the incision site will protect the open area from infection. You may feel some burning and pulling from the stitch that holds the tube in place. Your drain will be removed when the fluid leaking out is less than 30 mls (shot glass full) each day.

### **Home Care:**

- Don't sleep on the same side as the tube
- Secure the tube and bag inside your clothing. This will prevent the tube from being pulled out
- Empty your drain at least twice a day. Empty more frequently if needed.
  - Lift the opening on the drain
  - Drain the fluid into a measuring cup
  - Record the amount of fluid that is removed every time you empty the drain. Show this to the doctor on your next visit
  - Squeeze the bulb with your hands until you hear air coming out of the bulb.
  - Close the opening.
- Changing the dressing around the tube every day
  - Wash your hands
  - Remove the old bandage
  - Wash your hands again
  - Wet a cotton swab a clean around the incision and tube site. Use saline
  - Put bandage over the incision and tube site. Make the bandage large enough to cover the whole incision area.
  - Tape the bandage in place
- Tape plastic wrap over the bandage and tube site when you shower

### **Follow-up**

Make an appointment as directed by our staff 650 641 0789