



*Better
Together*

Patient information

Going Home after Breast Surgery with a
Drain in place

Breast Services

It is quite normal after surgery to have one or two drains in place. This is to prevent the build-up of fluid around the wound. The drains are normally removed once the amount of fluid drained over a 24-hour period is 50 mls or the drain has been in place for seven days or otherwise specified.

Going home with a drain

Since many women feel so well after their operation, it has now become accepted practice in most hospitals for you to go home with your drain still in place. Before you are discharged, your nurse will give you full instructions about caring for your drain and will also check you are confident in looking after the drain.

Once you are home

The District Nurse will contact you the day after you are discharged. They will check if your wound is all right, and that you are able to care for the drain and record the drainage.

The District Nurse will let you know when they will call again to see you. They will leave a contact number in case any problems arise. The District Nurse will remove your drain once it has drained 50 mls or less in 24 hours or has been in place for seven days unless you are given alternative instructions by your Consultant.

Pain or discomfort

We recommend you take your prescribed painkillers for at least two days post operation. A simple painkiller, such as paracetamol will ease any pain you may experience.

Please remember that any pain would be the same whether you were in hospital or at home.

Please contact your family doctor (GP) or District Nurse if you have any severe pain or you are having problems with your wound or drain.

Please complete this with your ward nurse before going home.

Instructed by Nurse demonstrates / shows understanding	
Procedure	Signatures
Securing the drain	Patient
	Nurse
Resetting the drain	Patient
	Nurse
Recording drainage and colour	Patient
	Nurse
Changing the bag	Patient
	Nurse
Information about Seroma	Patient
	Nurse
Pain Control	Patient
	Nurse
Information about exercises given	Patient
	Nurse
Date of District Nurse contact	Patient
	Nurse
Clinic Appointment	Patient
	Nurse

Caring for your drain

- Keep your drain well secured with tape, as instructed by your nurse
- Wash normally, but if you have a dressing on, avoid wetting the dressing
- Do not let the drainage bag drag, as this will pull on the drain and cause **pain**
- Measure and record the drainage on this form at the same time each day – normally the first thing in the morning
- Check the suction is working as instructed by your nurse.

Further Information

If you have any further questions, or would like to talk through any of the above in more detail, please contact the ward nurses on Tel: 0151 706 2496 or 2498 for advice
Text phone Number: 18001 0151 706 2496/ 2498.
Or you could see your GP or hospital consultant.

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All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

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