

Discharge advice following insertion of a percutaneous drain

Information for patients



What is a percutaneous drain?

Whilst in hospital you had a procedure to insert a percutaneous drain into a pocket of fluid, either in or near your liver, pancreas or gallbladder to drain a collection of fluid.

Going home with your drain

This drain has been placed to drain the fluid that has accumulated in a collection in or near your liver, pancreas or gallbladder

- Any further treatments will be explained to you by your consultant before you go home from hospital.
- It is important to take proper care of your drainage tube, and its site, to reduce the risk of infection.

To prevent infection:

- Keep the drainage bag directed downwards
- Do not take a bath, but you may shower
- Keep the skin around your drainage tube dry
- Do not lie on the tubing or allow the tubing to kink, twist, or hang below the drainage bag as this may prevent bile from draining out of the tube and into the drainage bag
- Always keep the drainage system closed
- Do not disconnect any connections unless instructed to do so by a medical professional
- Wash your hands with soap and water before handling tubing connections or dressings
- Always wash your hands after touching the tubing connections or dressings.

Care for and flushing your drain

- We will contact your District Nurse/Practice Nurse to make them aware that you have a percutaneous drain in place.
- If your drain needs to be flushed the nurse will do this by unscrewing the drain bag from the drain and injecting a sterile solution (normal saline) into your drain tube. This will keep the tube clear of any blockages.

- You should check the site of the drain regularly for signs of inflammation, infection, and bile leakage. You should look for redness or if there is bile or pus leaking from the drain.
- Your drain bag should be changed once a week.
- Your drain may be capped and have no bag attached. In this case you will have a dressing in place and a cap covering the end.

Drain dressing changes

If there is a white butterfly dressing in situ

- Remove the transparent film dressing and clean site weekly
- **Do not** cut the butterfly dressing.

If there is an adhesive drain dressing in situ

- Change this weekly

Drain bags and dressings

- You will be given enough drain bags and dressings when you are discharged from the hospital to last until your clinic appointment. If you need more drain bags or dressings you will need to contact the ward to have more sent to you through the post. Please contact the ward promptly as it may take a few days for them to be sent out.
- Please be aware that the community nurses do not stock these.

Follow-up

You will be seen in clinic approximately 2-6 weeks after you leave the hospital.

Problems with your drain

If your drain becomes blocked, stops draining, or the stitches become loose, please inform your nurse or GP as soon as you can.

Feeling Unwell?

- Shivering
- Shaking
- High Temperature

If you are unwell, please seek help from your GP, NHS 24, Out-of-Hours service, or local Accident and Emergency department.

