Western Connecticut Health Network

Danbury Hospital
New Milford Hospital

Patient Education Sheet

Abscess Drain Care

What is an abscess?

An abscess is a collection of pus. It can be found anywhere in the body including skin, abdomen, and pelvis. An abscess can cause pain, fever, and/or chills. Pus is a mixture of white blood cells and bacteria. It is a sign that your body is trying to fight an infection.

What is an abscess drain?

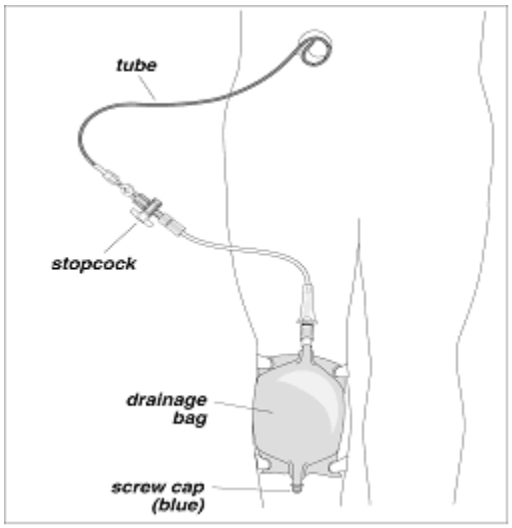
An abscess drain is a thin tube placed into your skin connected to a drainage bag. It collects the fluid around the infection. This kind of drain may be in place for several weeks to ensure proper healing.

How do I care for the abscess drain?

You or your family member will need to empty the abscess drain three to four times daily depending on the amount of fluid in your drain. The drain should be emptied when it is one-third full. You will be given the materials needed to care for the drain.

Drainage Chart

Date	Morning	Noon	Night



Emptying the Drain:

- Wash your hands
- Unscrew blue cap (see picture above)
- Empty contents into specimen cup provided
- Rescrew blue cap
- Record measurements to bring to your doctor (see Drainage Chart below)
- Flush the fluid down the toilet
- Wash your hands

Flushing the Drain:

- Wash your hands
- Lay out a clean paper towel on which to place the tube and syringe
- Unscrew/disconnect tube from drainage bag at the white port

- Screw 10cc Normal Saline syringe to tube
- Slowly push plunger until all of the fluid is injected (Do not force, Do not pull back fluid)
- Unscrew syringe
- Reconnect drainage bag to tube
- Wash your hands

When should I call the surgeon?

Call the doctor if you notice:

- Redness, swelling, or pus around the drain site
- Increased pain
- Foul smell to wound or bandage
- Bright red blood in your drain
- Increased drainage
- Temperature over 100.4 F or chills

Are there any other specific instructions?

- Attach drainage bag loosely to leg using the straps provided
- Bag should be lower than insertion site
- Allow drain to flow freely and prevent kinks in tube

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http://www.uwhealth.org/healthfacts/B_EXTRANET_HEALTH_INFORMATION-FlexMember-Show_Public_HFFY_1126663511471.html

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