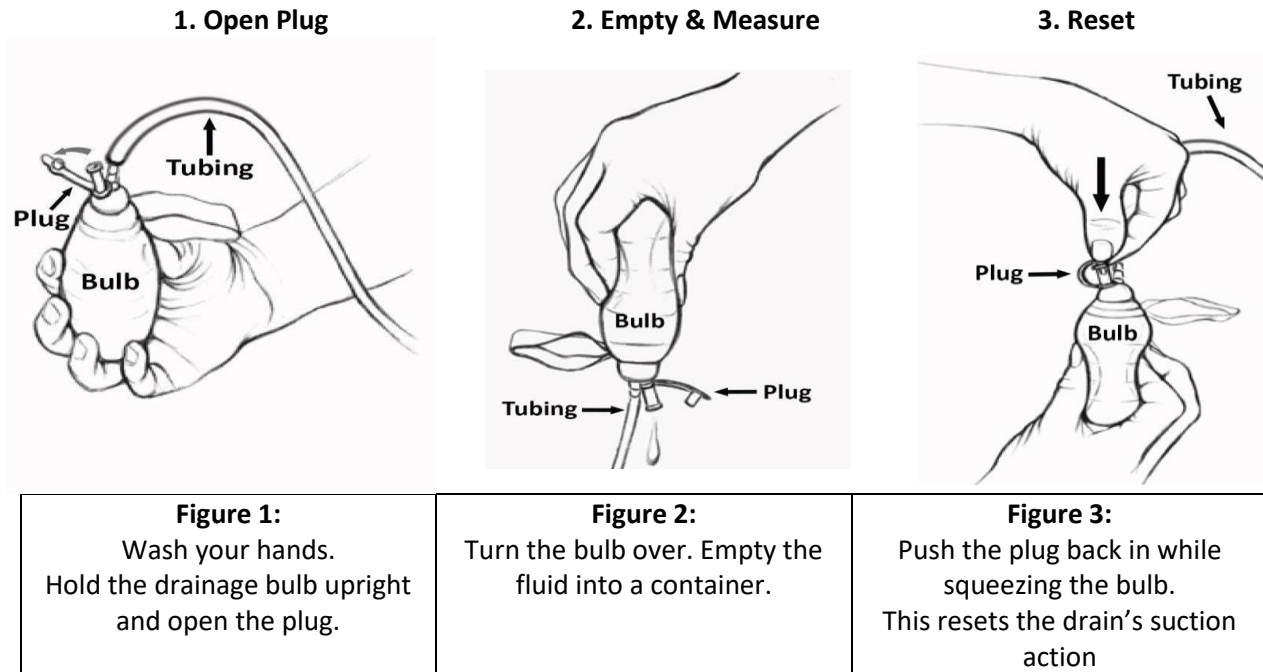


JACKSON-PRATT DRAINS: Caring for your drains at home

A **Jackson-Pratt Drain** (also called a **JP Drain**) is a closed-suction medical device that is commonly used as a post-operative **drain** for collecting bodily fluids from surgical sites. The device consists of an internal **drain** connected to a grenade-shaped bulb via plastic tubing.

EMPTYING YOUR DRAIN



- DO NOT rinse the drainage bulb.
- Empty the drain when the bulb is half full or twice a day at the same time.
- Measure the amount of drainage each time. Record it in the Drain Record
- Drainage is often pink. This often becomes yellow or clear and the amount will decrease over time.
- If the tubing accidentally disconnects from the drainage bulb, cleanse it with 70% isopropyl alcohol before reconnecting it. Follow the steps to reset the drain.

UNCLOGGING YOUR DRAIN

It is normal for small clots, fluid or air bubbles to sit in the drainage tubing, but drains can become clogged with clots. When this happens, you will notice a sudden decrease in drainage, and fluid may leak out where the tube enters the body. To release clots:

- With your non-dominant hand, pinch the tubing between your thumb and index finger close to where the drain enters your body. Be careful not to pull on the tubing!
- With the thumb and index finger of the other hand, squeeze the tubing and gently move your fingers down the tubing towards the bulb about 6 inches. This is called “stripping the tubing”. Make sure you do not pull the drain out.
- Move down the tubing and repeat this process until you reach the draining bulb.

