

# Going home with your wound drain





## General information

During your operation a wound drain is put in place to remove blood and tissue fluid and allow good healing.

Most patients are ready to go home 24 to 48 hours after their operation and this may mean that the drain should be left in place.

If your Surgeon and Breast Clinical Nurse Specialist are happy with your recovery and your home situation allows, you can be discharged with your drain in place. The drain will then be managed by your Breast Clinical Nurse Specialist and removed at a follow up appointment in the Breast Unit (Department B3). The Breast Clinical Nurse Specialist will make this appointment directly with the patient.

## Recovery at home

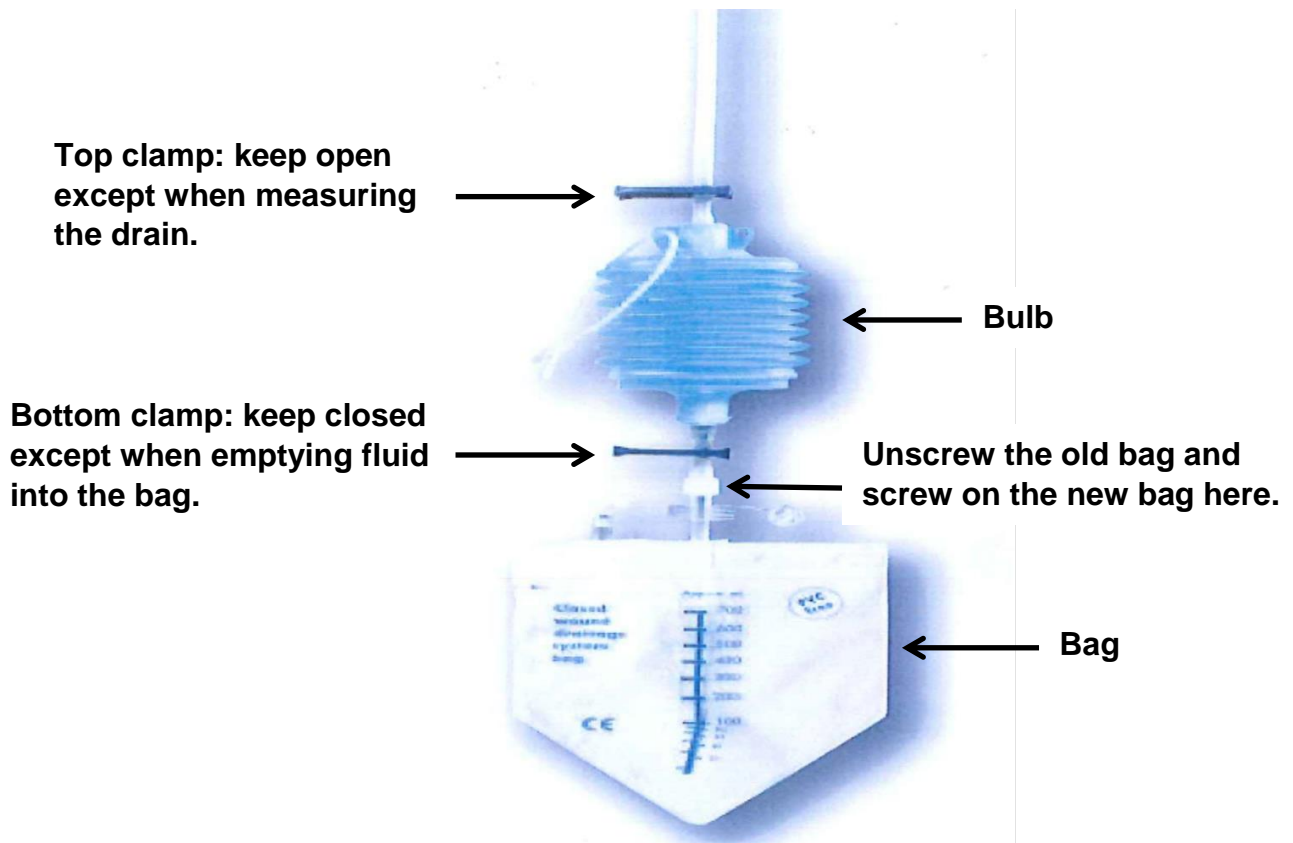
Going home with a drain in place allows you to leave hospital earlier. You can then benefit from the comfort of home and support from your family and friends.

The wound drain is easy to care for at home. Most patients feel capable of looking after the drain when their Breast Clinical Nurse Specialist has discussed the care instructions as given below.

## The wound drain

The wound drain has 2 clamps, one at the top and one at the bottom.

**At all times**, except when you are measuring the drain, the top clamp should be open and the bottom clamp closed.





### **Measuring the drain**

You should measure the drain at the same time each day.

1. Wash your hands
2. Close the top clamp
3. Open the bottom clamp
4. Squeeze the bulb to allow the fluid to run into the bag.
5. Measure how much fluid is in the bag using the markings on the front of the bag and write this down with the date.
6. Close the bottom clamp
7. Open the top clamp
8. Wash your hands

### **Changing the bag**

You should change the bag every 48 hours, unless told differently by your Breast Clinical Nurse Specialist.

1. Wash your hands
2. Ensure the bottom clamp is closed
3. Unscrew the bag and put aside
4. Screw on the new bag and ensure it is fastened correctly
5. Place the used drain bag in a plastic carrier bag and bring to your next appointment at the hospital for disposal.

**If you have any concerns at all please contact your Breast Clinical Nurse Specialist (Monday-Friday, 8.30am-5pm) on 01225 824057 or outside these times, Phillip Yeoman Ward on 01225 825477.**

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Please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) if you require this leaflet in a different format, or would like to feedback your experience of the hospital. Telephone 01225 825656 or Email [ruh-tr.PatientAdviceandLiaisonService@nhs.net](mailto:ruh-tr.PatientAdviceandLiaisonService@nhs.net)