Care of your wound drain at home
Information and instructions for patients and carers

Continuous draining

Top clamp (clamp closest to you) stays open

Bottom clamp (clamp closest to bag) stays closed

Screw cap

Emptying and measuring

Close clamp

Open clamp

Unscrew the cap to change the bag

Squeeze bellow

Squeeze bellow

Remember!

• When measuring the contents of the drain, you will need to close off the clamp closest to you and open the clamp closest to the bag
• Squeeze the contents that are in the belows, try to do this around the same time each day because it will give you an amount for 24 hours
• The drain will only be removed by a nurse or doctor when the amount is 50mls or less two days in a row
• A waterproof dressing and a suture (stitch) keeps the drain in place, this dressing needs to stay on until you come to the clinic

• To change the bag, unscrew at the screw cap and replace with a new bag. This old bag can be thrown away in your rubbish bin
• If you have any concerns that you need to discuss, please call the breast care nurse on 5470 6542
• If the drain has become painful or dislodged, call the hospital immediately.
Seroma

Sometimes after the drain has been removed, you will continue to accumulate fluid underneath your scar. This is called seroma and it is normal for this to occur. Sometimes it resolves by itself or you may need to have it aspirated which can be done by your local G.P. or when you come to the outpatient clinic. If you have had lymph nodes removed you may notice some build up of seroma in your armpit which can cause difficulty in putting your arm down against your side, the nurses and doctors will assess and aspirate (remove) if required.

Please call the breast care nurse if you have any concerns.
Ph: 5470 6542