

# Having Your Surgical Drain Removed

As you recover from surgery and your body heals, the fluid draining from your body will decrease and there will be a day when you do not need your surgical drain anymore.

*“I’m down to collecting only 25 CC’s of fluid each day and I was wondering if it was possible to make a follow-up appointment to have the drain removed?”*

Everyone is different and the amount of drainage is different. To help your healthcare provider decide when to remove your surgical drain, make sure you take all of your fluid log sheets with you to all of your follow-up appointments.

*“For the last 24 hours it has been at 5 and 5 and so for the previous day 10, so it’s coming down exactly how we want it in order to take it out today.”*

*“Ok.”*

When the drainage is less than 30 milliliters (about 2 tablespoons) in a 24 hour period, your healthcare provider may decide it is time to take the surgical drain out. Removing the drain can be done as an out-patient procedure. Once it is removed, your insertion site will be covered with a bandage to prevent infection as the site heals.

Your healthcare provider will give you specific instructions on how to care for your drain site after it has been removed. Follow these guidelines to allow your site to heal properly and prevent infection.