

**ASCENSION ST VINCENTS  
DRAINAGE CATHETER PLACEMENT  
AFTERCARE INSTRUCTIONS**

**Who Performed Your Procedure:**

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**Aftercare Instructions:**

- Bandaging will be applied over the procedure site. Change the bandaging as needed and after it gets wet. You may shower and allow water to flow over the site 24 hours after your procedure, however, do not submerge the site in water (bath, pool, hot tub or ocean) until the drain has been removed and the site has healed. Do not apply lotion/ointment to the site until it has healed unless instructed to do so.
- Avoid strenuous physical activity for at least 24 hours then increase your activity level as tolerated.
- It is normal to experience discomfort / pain and bruising after your procedure. You can take acetaminophen (Tylenol) for the first 24 hours after your procedure. After 24 hours, you may switch to aspirin, ibuprofen (Motrin) or naproxen (Aleve) if acetaminophen is not adequately decreasing your pain.
- Record the volume of fluid draining from the catheter (output) every 24 hours. Contact your ordering clinician once the output drops to less than 10 mL per 24 hours to inquire about catheter removal. You may receive flushing instructions to inject 10 mL of sterile saline into the catheter every 12 hours then reconnect the catheter to the drainage bag/bulb.
- Contact Radiology or your ordering clinician if you have any concerns or experience any of the following after your procedure: continued bleeding, significant swelling, severe pain not responding to over-the-counter medications, signs of possible infection (significant redness or purulent drainage from the site, severe pain, fever or chills), shortness of breath and/or chest pain that is worse than normal for you, dizziness / lightheadedness when standing, a faster than normal heart rate or drainage from around the catheter.
- Weekdays 8 am to 5 pm call 308-8401 (Riverside), 296-3886 (Southside), 602-1360 (Clay), 691-1297 (St Johns) or Optimal Imaging (450-6960). Weekdays 5 pm to 10 pm or weekends 6 am to 10 pm call 308-8401. If outside of these hours, call the hospital operator at 308-7300 and ask to speak to the Interventional Radiologist on call.
- Call 911 or have someone take you to the nearest Emergency Room if you are experiencing severe/significant symptoms.

**How Do I Receive Procedure Results?**

- Some drainage procedures produce samples which are sent for laboratory analysis. Results can take up to 5 days to become available. Please contact your clinician's office to obtain results and for follow-up instructions.