

### ABSCESS OR FLUID DRAINAGE TUBE

An abscess drainage tube is a small tube that is placed into the area of the body where you have a fluid collection. It is placed because the collection of fluid has not cleared on its own.

### WHY DO I NEED THE TUBE

- Your doctor has referred you to Interventional Radiology for placement of this tube.
- The tube was placed to drain the fluid to allow your body to heal.
- Your doctor may put you on antibiotics if the fluid is infected.

### HOW LONG WILL I HAVE THE TUBE

- The tube will stay in until the collection of fluid is completely drained. That can be from two (2) weeks to several weeks.
- **Your referring doctor will arrange follow-up care.**

### CARE AFTER THE PROCEDURE

- The tube will be attached to a bag outside your body to collect the fluid.
- Avoid strenuous activity while the tube is in place.
- Do **NOT** take a bath or go swimming while the tube is in place.
- You will have a bandage covering the insertion site of the tube.

**Change this bandage as needed.**

**Keep the area clean and dry.**

**You can clean around the tube with antibacterial soap (example is Dial or Safeguard) and water.**

**Apply a clean gauze pad over the tube insertion site and tape securely to your skin.**

**To shower cover tube and dressing with plastic wrap two (2) days after the tube placement.**

- The tube(s) **may** require flushing.

**If this is required a nurse, prior to discharge, will show you.**

**A prescription for the flush will be given to you.**

- If you experience discomfort from the tube you may take Tylenol or Advil, unless you are restricted from these medications.

### WHEN TO CALL INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY

- Inability to flush or the tube stops draining.
- If the tube falls out.

Call the Interventional Radiology Nurse Coordinators' line at **617-724-2239** Monday through Friday between 8am and 5pm.

For emergencies in the **evening or weekend hours**, call the answering service at **617-726-1818**. Ask the operator to page the **Non-vascular Interventional Radiologist** on call.



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