

Bartholin's Cyst Drainage: Aftercare Instructions

This brochure will help you know what to expect as you recover from the cyst removal procedure. Please be sure you understand these instructions before you leave the hospital. Schedule your follow-up visits for 1 week and 4 weeks after your procedure.

Care at home

Follow these instructions when you are at home:

- Do not have intercourse, douche, use tampons or put anything in your vagina for 4 weeks.
- You may take a sitz bath to relieve any tenderness as often as needed. You can buy a sitz bath basin from a drug store or use your bathtub. Fill the basin or tub with 3 to 4 inches of warm water and sit in it for 5 minutes.
- You may shower as usual.

Medications

- Take ibuprofen (Motrin®, Advil®) or acetaminophen (Tylenol®) as directed for pain.
 - Start with 600 milligrams (mg) ibuprofen every 6 hours **or** 500 mg Tylenol every 6 hours.
 - If your pain is not relieved, you may increase the ibuprofen to 800 mg every 8 hours **or** the Tylenol to 1,000 mg every 8 hours.
- Follow your usual medication schedule starting today (the day of your procedure).

When to call your physician

Contact your physician if you have any of these symptoms:

- A temperature of 100.4 degrees F or higher
- Foul-smelling vaginal discharge
- Redness around the area
- Pain that is not relieved with ibuprofen or Tylenol

Contact information

If you have any of the above symptoms, please call our office at 312.695.7382 (TTY: 711).

You will speak with the answering service. It will connect you with a nurse or page the on-call physician. If needed, they will have you come to Northwestern Medicine Prentice Women's Hospital Obstetrical Triage Unit (on the 1st floor of the hospital).

- For all other questions, call our office at 312.695.7382.
- Send messages that are not urgent, such as paperwork requests, through MyNM, the patient account portal.
 - We may take 2 business days to respond to MyNM messages.
 - MyNM should only be used for non-urgent messages.
- **For all emergencies, call 911.**