 **Chest Drain Pleural Observation Chart**

Affix Patient Identification Label

**Date and time of Insertion:** …………………………………………….......................

**Seldinger:** 12F £ 18F £ Other …………………………….

**Wide-bore chest drain:** £ Size……………………………………………….

**Side:** Left £ Right £

**Indication:** Pleural effusion £ Pneumothorax £

Empyema £ Other…………………………….

**Post Procedure :**

* Ensure direct observation for 15 minutes following drain insertion
* Do not transfer patient within this first 15 minutes
* NEWS2 Score every 15 minutes for 1st hour, every hour for next 3 hours then every 4 hours until drain removed
* Ensure patient aware to keep chest drain bottle below level of chest to prevent back flow
* Stop drainage of chest drain using the 3-way tap
* Pleural effusion drainage - Close the 3-way tap after 1 hour for 1 hour before re-opening
* Pleural effusion drainage - Close the 3-way tap if any of the **RED FLAG TRIGGERS** occur
* The 3-way tap can be re-opened after 1 hour, allowing up to 500ml per hour to drain before returning to free drainage

**Escalation policy if patient deteriorates**

* Inform senior nurse on ward and follow NEWS2 escalation policy
* Inform medical team
* In emergency peri-arrest situation 2222 via switchboard for the Medical Emergency Team

**RED FLAG TRIGGERS when draining pleural effusions:**

Close 3-way tap if patient develops any of the following:

* Severe pain or chest discomfort
* Persistent cough, worsening breathlessness or hypotension
* A deteriorating NEWS2 score
* Drainage of >1000ml quickly

**NB: Never close a bubbling chest drain as this can cause a tension pneumothorax**

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| Frequency | Date | Time | Patient comfort | Swinging | Bubbling | Drainage type | Drainage site checked | Tubing/ connections intact | Underwater seal intact | Bottle changed | Prescribed suction setting | Saline Flush volume | Pleural fluid volume drained | Chest drain running total | Signature / initials |
| NEWS2 score and drain check |  |  | 0=no discomfort  10=severe discomfort | Y/N | Y/N | See key below | Y/N | Y/N | Y/N | Y/N | KPa | ml | ml | ml |  |
| 15 mins |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 30 mins |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 45 mins |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1 hour |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Frequency | Date | Time | Patient comfort | Swinging | Bubbling | Drainage type | Drainage site checked | Tubing/ connections intact | Underwater seal intact | Bottle changed | Prescribed suction setting | Saline Flush volume | Pleural fluid volume drained | Chest drain running total | Signature / initials |
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| 2 hour |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3 hour |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 hour |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 hourly thereafter |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| NEWS2 score and drain check |  |  | 0=no discomfort  10=severe discomfort | Y/N | Y/N | See key below | Y/N | Y/N | Y/N | Y/N | KPa | ml | ml | ml |  |
| 4 hourly |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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