# PROCEDURE CHECKLIST

**Chapter 35: Caring for a Patient with Chest Tubes (Disposable Water-Seal System)**

Check (✔) Yes or No

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROCEDURE STEPS</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>COMMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Obtains and prepares the prescribed drainage system.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Disposable water-seal system without suction.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1) Removes the cover on the water-seal chamber and, using the funnel provided,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fills the second (water-seal) chamber with sterile water or normal saline.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fills to the 2-cm mark, or as indicated.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Replaces the cover on the water-seal chamber.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Disposable water-seal system with suction.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1) Removes the cover on the water-seal chamber and, using the funnel provided,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fills the water-seal chamber (second chamber) with sterile water or normal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>saline to the 2-cm mark.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Adds sterile water or normal saline solution to the suction-control chamber.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adds the amount of fluid specified by the physician order, typically 20 cm.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Attaches the tubing from the suction-control chamber to the connecting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tubing attached to the suction source.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Positions the patient according to the indicated insertion site.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Dons a mask, gown, and sterile gloves.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Provides support to the patient while the physician prepares the sterile</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>field, anesthetizes the patient, and inserts and sutures the chest tube.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. As soon as the chest tube is inserted, attaches it to drainage system using</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a connector.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Using sterile technique, wraps petroleum gauze around the chest tube insertion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>site.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Places a precut, sterile drain dressing over the petroleum gauze.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Places a second sterile, precut, drain dressing over the first drain dressing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with the opening facing in the opposite direction from the first one.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Places a large drainage dressing (“ABD”) over the two precut drain dressing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Secures the dressing in place with 2-inch silk tape, making sure to cover</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the dressing completely.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Writes date, time, and initials on the dressing.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
12. Using the spiral taping technique, wraps 1-inch silk tape around the chest tube starting above the connector and continuing below the connector. Reverses the wrapping by taping back up the tubing (using the spiral technique) until above the connector.

13. Cuts an 8-inch-long piece of 2-inch tape. Loops one end around the top portion of the drainage tube and secures the remaining end of the tape to the chest tube dressing.

14. If suction is prescribed, adjusts the suction source until gentle bubbling occurs in the suction-control chamber. If suction is not prescribed, leaves the suction tubing on the drainage system open.

15. Makes sure that the drainage tubing lies with no kinks from the chest tube to the drainage chamber.

16. Prepares the patient for a portable chest x-ray.

17. Places two rubber-tipped clamps at the patient’s bedside for special situations (safety measure).

18. Places a petroleum gauze dressing at the bedside in case the chest tube becomes dislodged.

19. Keeps a spare disposable drainage system at the patient’s bedside.

20. Positions patient for comfort, as indicated.

21. Maintains chest tube and drainage system patency by:
   a. Making sure the drainage tubing is free of kinks.
   b. Inspecting the air vent in the drainage system to make sure it is patent.
   c. Making sure the drainage system is located below the insertion site.

Recommendation: Pass ______ Needs more practice ______

Student: __________________________   Date: __________________________

Instructor: __________________________ Date: __________________________

Copyright © 2007, F. A. Davis Company, Wilkinson & Van Leuven/Procedure Checklists for Fundamentals of Nursing