

Going Home with a Pneumostat Chest Drain Valve

After a lung biopsy air may leak into the space around the lung. If this happens the lung might collapse, causing difficulty to breath. The air must be removed from this space by putting a small plastic tube (drain) through the skin into the space. This is called a chest tube or chest drain.

The chest tube is then connected to a small device called a Pneumostat valve. It is a one-way valve that allows air and any fluid to leave your chest until the lung heals.

When you go home with a chest tube on a weekday:

- You will need to come back to the Interventional Recovery area the next morning at 8:00 a.m. as shown on your appointment card.
- You will have a chest x-ray done to check your progress.
- The chest drain tube will be clamped for 1 to 2 hours.
- You will have another chest x-ray done after 1 to 2 hours.
- The chest drain tube is then removed if you do not have signs of a leak.

When you go home with a chest tube on a weekend or holiday:

- The Interventional radiologist (x-ray doctor) will contact the thoracic (chest) doctor to see when you need to come back.
- You may come back to the Emergency Department or the next working day to the Interventional Recovery area. You will know before you leave the hospital when and where to return.

Care of your chest tube:

- You may shower with a chest tube in but do not submerge the tube or valve in water. Try to keep the dressing dry.
- No tub baths, hot tubs or swimming.
- It is very important to take several deep breaths each hour you are awake to expand your lungs.
- For discomfort, you can take acetaminophen tablets such as plain Tylenol[®].

If the chest tube falls out, is pulled out, or you have severe chest pain and/or bleeding:

- Do not try to replace the tube yourself.
- Cover the small hole right away with a bandage or gauze pad and tape.
- Go to the nearest hospital emergency department.