

CALL AN AMBULANCE on 000 and state you have a CHEST DRAIN if any of the following occur:

- You become increasingly breathless
- You notice a leak in the connection
- The drain falls out, apply pressure to the wound and call the ambulance
- The tube becomes blocked
- The tube becomes disconnected from the drainage device and you are unable to reconnect it.

Less urgent: Please use the contacts below if any of the following occur:

- You notice an increase in pain
- You develop a temperature
- The tube becomes disconnected from the drainage device and you manage to reconnect it.

The Community Nurse: (07) 4433 9933

OR

The Clinics Nurse: (07) 4433 3739

OR

Your GP _____

After hours

Cardiac Ward Shift Coordinator (Shifty):

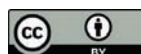
(07) 4433 3579

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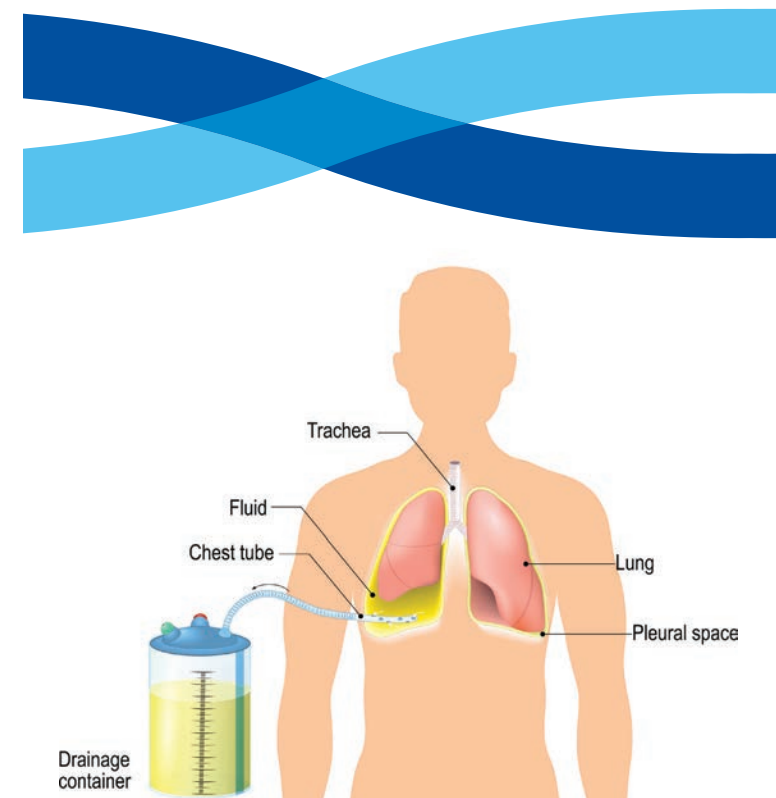
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National Safety and Quality Health Service
Standard 2 - Partnering with Consumers



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Chest Drain

Information for patients and carers of patients
going home with a chest drain



Queensland
Government

Why has this drain been inserted?

A chest drain is inserted to help drain air or fluid from around the lung (pleural) cavity.

Why is the drain still in when I am leaving hospital?

Sometimes patients are well enough to leave hospital but there is still air and/or fluid that needs to be drained from the lung cavity. In these situations you can leave the hospital with the drain still inserted until the air and fluid finish draining.

If you only have fluid to drain (pleural effusion) and no air, you only require intermittent drainage using Rocket®/Pleurx® devices. For further information talk to your discharge coordinator about an education package specific to your device.

The next three devices require you to be continuously connected.

Who will monitor the drain once I leave hospital?

For the Rocket®/Pleurx® devices the respiratory CNC will advise further treatment options. For the other devices a community nurse will visit every day. Ensure you attend your weekly appointment with a doctor.

All devices must be kept below the level of the drain insertion site.

Chest drain devices

Atrium Express Mini 500



Image Source: <http://www.getinge.com>

The **Atrium Express Mini 500** is used to drain fluid from the chest. It has a one-way valve which allows air to escape but not re-enter the chest.

- A syringe can be used to drain the fluid from the chamber if it becomes full.

Pneumostat



A **pneumostat** is used to allow air to drain from the chest but only allows for minimal fluid drain. It has a small chamber to collect fluids and a one-way valve to allow air to escape.

- It can be clipped to your clothes
- A syringe can be used to drain the fluid from the chamber if it becomes full
- If the chamber fills up to the top more than three times a day please contact the community nurse.

Portex Bag



A **portex bag** is used to drain fluid from the chest. It has a one-way valve which allows air to escape but not re-enter the chest.

- It can be worn with a strap
- Never turn the bag upside down as this will allow fluid to leak out of the one way valve and can compromise it's function
- If fluid has leaked from the one-way valve, or the bag is more than half full you will need to call the community nurse to change the bag.