

BMDA Portable Chest Tube Drain System (Pneumostat)

Purpose

Your doctor has placed a chest tube in your chest between the chest wall along your lung to drain fluid and/or evacuate air. The tube is attached to a portable chest drain system (Pneumostat). This allows you greater mobility while caring for your chest tube, in the hospital or at home. The following information explains how the portable chest drain system works, how to care for it, and when to call your doctor.

About the Drain System

The portable chest drain system (Pneumostat) is designed to collect a maximum of 30ml of fluid and has a one-way valve to allow air to evacuate but not enter. To assist you with greater mobility and minimize discomfort, a blue clip is incorporated to attach to the inside of your shirt.

! Always keep the drain system below the level of your heart and in an upright position.

Emptying the Drain

It is important that the fluid be removed before the chamber is completely full. Follow the steps below to empty your drain system.

1. Before you empty the chamber, record the amount of drainage on the record included in these instructions. Please be sure to bring this to every visit to the clinic.
2. Wash your hands.
3. Using an alcohol swab, clean the white luer-lock port located on the bottom of the device.
4. Take a syringe that has been supplied, applying light pressure twist the syringe onto the port. Avoid tightening too much that you are unable to remove it.
5. Pull the plunger down on the syringe to pull fluid from the Pneumostat into the syringe.
6. Twist the syringe off and empty the fluid into the toilet.
7. Be sure to reattach the device to your position of choice for comfort.

Checking for an Air Leak

A Pneumostat is also commonly used for patients who require their chest tube to evacuate air as the lung continues to heal. Follow these steps to check for an air leak.

1. Wash your hands.
2. Using a syringe that has been supplied, take 2-4ml of water and drop into the cup on the white top portion of the device.
3. Instruct the patient to cough.
 - a. If an air leak is still present, there will be bubbles in the water.
 - b. If the lung has healed, there will not be any bubbles in the water.

