Pneumostat

What is a Pneumostat?
The Pneumostat is a small portable chest drainage system that allows you to go home with a chest tube in place. It has a one-way valve that allows airs to escape from your chest. It also has a small collection chamber, to collect fluid from your chest.

Chest Tube and Pneumostat Care
- You cannot shower when attached to the Pneumostat.
- Check your chest tube site each day for signs of infection.
- Use the clip on the Pneumostat to clip it to your clothes so the chest tube does not get pulled.
- Do not allow it to fill completely with fluid.
- Empty it once fluid reaches 20 mL.

How to Empty the Pneumostat
1. Wash your hands with soap and water.
2. Alcohol wipe the bottom blue port for 15 seconds.
3. Screw the newly opened syringe to the blue port and pull back on the syringe to draw the fluid out.
4. When the Pneumostat is empty, throw the syringe away.
5. Clean the blue port with a new alcohol wipe for 15 seconds again.
6. Wash your hands.
7. Write down what day you emptied the Pneumostat, how much fluid you removed, and the color of the fluid on the attached chart on the next page.
8. If the fluid becomes hard to draw out, call the number provided.

Dressing Change
To change the dressing on your Pneumostat, you need:
- two pieces of split gauze
- two pieces of standard 4x4 gauze
- tape

The chest tube site needs to be washed with soap and water every day. Do not use soaps with lotion or a heavy scent. This can bother your skin.
1. Lay the split gauze down first against your skin. Place the slit of gauze around the chest tube.
2. Next, lay the two pieces of standard 4x4 gauze on top of the split gauze.
3. Tape down the edges of the gauze to hold the dressing in place.
Activity
If you only have a chest tube with a Pneumostat there are no limits to how much you can lift. If you had surgery and have an incision, do not lift more than 5-10 pounds (a gallon of milk) for 3-4 weeks after your surgery.

Do not soak in a bathtub, hot tub, or swim while attached to a Pneumostat.

Do not drive if you are taking certain pain medicines. Check with your doctor.

You may need to have a chest X-ray before your follow up visit to see how your lung is doing. You will get instructions if the X-ray is needed.

When to Call
• If you develop sudden or severe shortness of breath, call 911.
• If the Pneumostat comes off the chest tube, attach it right away and put tape around the connection.
• Sudden sharp chest pain with shortness of breath.
• The site is more tender or if you have pain that does not go away with pain medicine.
• Increased redness or warmth at the insertion site.
• Pus-like drainage.
• Large amounts of swelling or bleeding around the chest tube site.
• Temperature taken by mouth, greater than 100.4° F for two readings, 4 hours apart.

Drainage Chart

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<tr>
<th>Date Emptyed</th>
<th>Amount Emptyed</th>
<th>Color of Fluid</th>
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Important Phone Numbers

**Surgery Clinic**
Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
(608) 263-8502

If you live out of the area, please call toll-free 1 (800)-323-8942

**After hours, weekends and holidays**
(608) 263-6400. This number will reach the paging operator. Ask for the thoracic surgery resident on call. Leave your name and phone number with the area code. The doctor will call you back.

If you are a patient receiving care at UnityPoint – Meriter, Swedish American or a health system outside of UW Health, please use the phone numbers provided in your discharge instructions for any questions or concerns.

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person’s health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. © 10/2018. University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#8049