

Insert patient details/patient sticker

Date of drain insertion

Respiratory Medicine

Ambulatory pneumothorax management

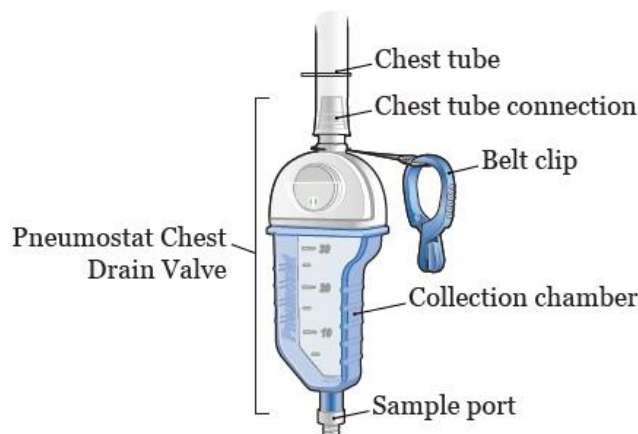
Information for patients going home with a Pneumostat™

Introduction

This leaflet goes with our [Pneumothorax patient information leaflet](#). The doctors feel you are now ready to go home, but you still require a chest drain to help expand your lung. This leaflet explains how to manage the chest drain and valve (the Pneumostat™) at home. Please feel free to ask our team any questions you have about the information below.

What is a Pneumostat™?

A Pneumostat is a one-way valve attached to your chest drain. It lets air and a small amount of fluid leave your chest until the puncture in the lung heals.



Why do I need it?

The doctors are concerned that the puncture in the lung is not fully healed. The valve allows air to escape from the chest, to prevent a dangerous build-up of air around the lung. When the puncture has healed, you will no longer need the device, and the doctors will assess this regularly.

How do I look after my Pneumostat™?

Your chest drain is secured with stitches and a plastic dressing. The Pneumostat™ is connected to the end of the drain and can be attached to your clothing using the belt clip to prevent it pulling on your chest drain.

The chest drain site must be kept dry and clean. If you feel the site is dirty (with blood or pus) please contact the pleural team who will arrange to see you urgently.

Occasionally some fluid drains from the chest, as well as air. The collection chamber in the Pneumostat™ holds 30ml of fluid. You can empty this as needed using the syringe you have been given, and this needs doing before the chamber fills completely to prevent it leaking. The doctors and nurses will have shown you how to do this using the following instructions:

- Wash your hands
- Wipe the Sample port on the bottom of the Pneumostat™ with an alcohol swab
- Take a clean syringe, and remove any air from it by pushing down on the plunger
- Firmly screw the clean syringe onto the Sample port
- Gently pull the plunger back on the syringe to withdraw the fluid
- When you have emptied the fluid from the chamber, unscrew the syringe. **Do not leave it attached to the port.**
- Throw away the fluid and the syringe

What happens next?

Follow the advice above, and the doctors will arrange to see you in the next 24-72 hours to review the chest drain and Pneumostat™. It is likely that they will ask you to have a chest x-ray at the time of review. Any symptoms you still have should continue to improve.

However, if your symptoms get worse, or if the chest drain or pneumostat™ become dislodged or fall out, YOU MUST RETURN TO A&E immediately. The pneumothorax may be getting larger (this is uncommon).

How to contact us

You will be contacted to attend a follow-up clinic with the pleural team.

If you do not receive an appointment or if you have any questions or concerns leading up to your follow-up appointment, please contact the Pleural Team on 07876138418 or imperial.pleural@nhs.net (Monday-Friday, 09.00-17.00).

How do I make a comment about my visit?

We aim to provide the best possible service and staff will be happy to answer any of the questions you may have. If you have any **suggestions** or **comments** about your visit, please either speak to a member of staff or contact the patient advice and liaison service (**PALS**) on **020 3312 7777** (10.00 – 16.00, Monday to Friday). You can also email PALS at imperial.pals@nhs.net The PALS team will listen to your concerns, suggestions or queries and is often able to help solve problems on your behalf.

Alternatively, you may wish to complain by contacting our complaints department:

Complaints department, fourth floor, Salton House, St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street
London W2 1NY

Email: ICHC-tr.Complaints@nhs.net

Telephone: **020 3312 1337 / 1349**

Alternative formats

This leaflet can be provided on request in large print or easy read, as a sound recording, in Braille or in alternative languages. Please email the communications team: imperial.communications@nhs.net

Wi-fi

Wi-fi is available at our Trust. For more information visit our website: www.imperial.nhs.uk

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