

Insert patient details/patient sticker

Respiratory medicine

Indwelling pleural catheter (IPC) aftercare

Information for patients, relatives and carers

Introduction

This leaflet provides information about recovering after an IPC insertion. Please read this information carefully. If you have any questions, please contact your clinical team. This information supplements the Rocket Medical 'Information for patients and nurses' which should also have been given to you by the hospital. This contains detailed information about drainage and includes frequently asked questions.

What happens after your procedure?

Today (.....) you have had an IPC pleural inserted into your **right / left** side at **St Mary's / Charing Cross Hospital**. This is generally a very safe procedure. The following information explains what to expect after your procedure.

Who will drain the fluid?

Your local district nurse is aware that you have had an IPC inserted. They will visit you within the next 5 days to complete your first home drainage.

If you become confident with the catheter and the drainage procedure, you or a family member, friend or carer could be taught how to do your own drainages. You will need to make sure you keep the catheter and attachments very clean.

How will the fluid be drained?

1. Your district nurse will visit you at home.
2. They will remove the protective dressing and clean the catheter, wearing sterile gloves.
3. They will then attach the drainage bottle to your catheter and slowly start to drain the fluid by pressing the button on the tubing. If this becomes uncomfortable you should let them know so they can slow down the rate of drainage or even stop the drainage.

When will the fluid be drained?

- Initially the fluid will be drained every 2 to 3 days. Usually, 1 bottle of fluid will be drained at each sitting.
- If less fluid is collected, drainage will be done less often. You may only need drainage once a week and then possibly even less often than that.
- If there is no more fluid to drain, either you or the district nurses should get in touch with the hospital team. We can then assess you and possibly even arrange to remove the catheter.

How do we get more drainage bottles?

Your district nurse and GP can arrange for further drainage bottles. The details of the product have been sent to them. They can prescribe the drainage bottles for collection from your local pharmacy. These details can also be found in the Rocket Medical information pack.

What happens to the bottles?

Your district nursing team will arrange for your council to provide a clinical waste collection of the drainage bottles.

What about the stitches?

Your doctor has inserted 2 stitches to temporarily hold the drain in place. One is at the catheter exit site, and one is about 5cm from this. **Both** stitches need to be removed in 10 days' time by the pleural team. This should not be painful.

Who to contact for help and advice?

If you have any queries or concerns regarding dates and times for drainage, please contact your district nurse team.

Your named district nurse is:
Contact number:

If you have any questions about your diagnosis and further hospital care, please contact the pleural team, Monday to Friday between 09.00 and 17.00

call: **07876 138 418 / 07393 003 019** email: imperial.pleural@nhs.net

The pleural team will also contact you at regular intervals to see how you're getting on.

How do I make a comment about my visit?

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**). The PALS team will listen to your concerns, suggestions or queries. They are often able to help solve problems on your behalf.

call: **020 3313 0088** email: imperial.pals@nhs.net

Or, if you need to **complain**, contact the Complaints department.

call: **020 3312 1337 / 1349** email: ICHC-tr.Complaints@nhs.net

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

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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