



Saskatchewan
Health Authority

Pleural (Chest) Drainage

Using a PleurXTM Bottle
Step by Step Instructions



CS-PIER-0363
AUGUST 2026



saskhealthauthority.ca

Directions for Pleural (Chest) Drainage

PleurX™ Bottle

The bottle may look different depending on the brand (example: PleurX™, Med-RX®), but the tube coming from your body is the same. Use these directions for the PleurX™ bottle.

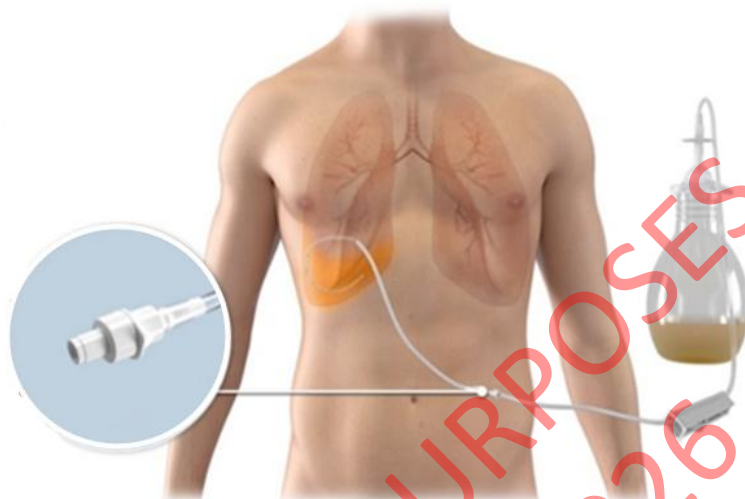


Figure 1. Pleural drain placement. Image used with permission from Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD).

- Follow your doctor's instructions. Drain your chest every ____ days and do not remove more than ____ mL each time.
- **ONLY** use the hard plastic drainage bottle. **Never use a bag to drain your chest. Using a bag can cause serious harm or death.**
- You should have a support person with you during all parts of your chest drainage.
- You have been given an emergency kit. Keep it in a safe place where you can easily access it.
- Your healthcare provider changes your dressing every week, or as needed.
- Check your oxygen level, blood pressure, and heart rate before and after draining.
- If you feel unwell, call your doctor, nurse or healthcare provider to ask if you should still drain your chest.
- Please refer to [PleurX™/PeritX™ Catheters - Discharge Instructions \(CS-PIER-0362\)](#) for further information.
- Next dressing change due:
Date/Time: _____
Location of appointment: _____

☐ Transcribed information reviewed for accuracy and confirmed by healthcare provider

CS-PIER 0363

Directions for Pleural (Chest) Drainage

You **MUST** follow the PleurX™ bottle directions in the order they are listed. Doing this drainage incorrectly can cause serious and life-threatening problems.

1 Gather your supplies and place them on a clean surface or table.

2 Wash your hands well with soap and water or hand sanitizer for at least 30 seconds. Consider using a timer to help you wash for the full 30 seconds. Use a clean towel or disposable paper towel to dry your hands.

3 Remove only the dressing around the catheter (tube) cap. Gently remove the tape and unwrap the gauze so you can see the cap. **Do not remove the dressing where the tube goes into your body. Your healthcare provider will change that dressing every week, or sooner if needed.**



Figures 2 to 4. Removing partial dressing (pocket).
SHA [Interprofessional Practice]. 2025.

4 Wash your hands again as described in Step 2.

5 Open the drainage kit and remove the procedure pack. Open the procedure pack and remove the wrapped blue cloth bundle. Place it on a clean surface.

6 Carefully unfold the blue cloth. You will see the sterile supplies. **Do not touch any items on the blue cloth with your bare hands as this is a sterile area.**



Figure 5. Opening sterile dressing kit. CareFusion. Image used with permission from Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD).

7 Remove the sterile drainage bottle from the kit and place it on a disposable underpad. **Make sure the bottle is below where the tube enters the body so that the fluid can flow easily.**

8 Remove the paper tape around the tube and uncoil tubing. Carefully place the tip of the tubing on the sterile blue cloth.

9 Wash your hands again as described in Step 2.

10 Put on the gloves from the blue cloth. **Be careful when unfolding the gloves.** The white cap is under the gloves.



Figure 6. Applying sterile gloves. CareFusion. Image used with permission from Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD).

11 Open the alcohol swabs found on the blue sterile cloth. Lay the open pouches down on the blue cloth.

12 Close the roller clamp completely by rolling the wheel down toward the bottle. The roller clamp can move up and down the tube. Place it on the thin part of the tube or it will not close.

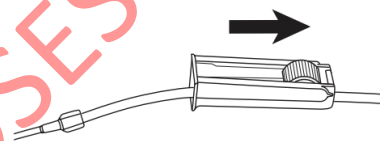


Figure 7. Closing rolling clamp. CareFusion. Image used with permission from Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD).

13 Take the catheter cap off the tube that goes into your body by turning counterclockwise (left). **Do not let the catheter touch anything when the cap is off.**

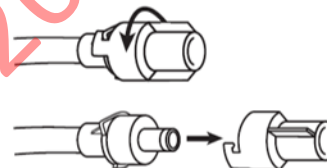


Figure 8. Removing valve cap. CareFusion. Image used with permission from Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD).

14 Clean the end of the tube that goes into your body with an alcohol swab for 15 to 20 seconds. **Do not stick the alcohol swab in the tube as this can damage it.** Hold the tube and let it dry.

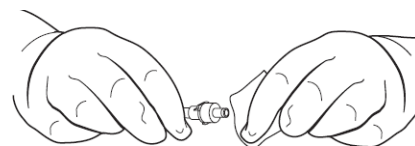


Figure 9. Cleaning catheter valve. CareFusion. Image used with permission from Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD).

15 Remove the clear protective cover from the tube that is attached to the bottle.

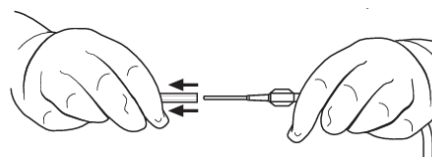


Figure 10. Removing sterile protective sheath. CareFusion. Image used with permission from Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD).

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Gently insert the bottle tubing tip into the tube that goes into your body. You will hear a “click.”

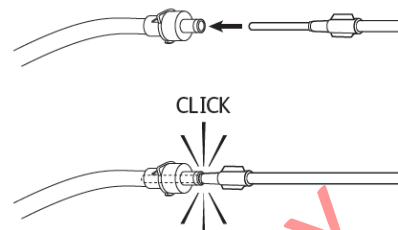


Figure 11. Connecting the drainage line. Image used with permission from Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD).

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You can now set the connected tubing down.

18

When you are ready, start the vacuum:

- Hold the bottle with your non-dominant hand.
- Remove the clip from the top of the bottle.
- Push down the T-plunger to break the foil seal on the top of the bottle.

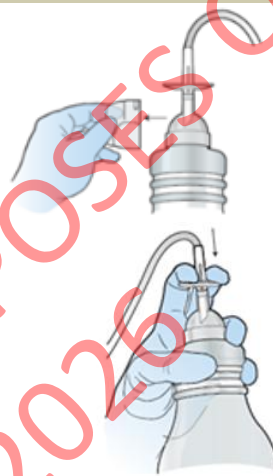


Figure 12. Removing support clip. Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. 2025.

Figure 13. Activating vacuum. Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. 2025.

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To start draining, slowly roll the wheel on the roller clamp away from the bottle. **Roll the wheel up or down to make it drain faster or slower.**

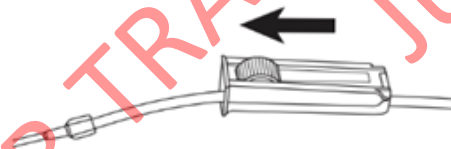


Figure 14. Opening roller clamp. CareFusion. Image used with permission from Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD).

SLOW DOWN the drainage if you feel any discomfort, pain, difficulty breathing, or cough, by rolling the wheel down.

STOP your drainage if you can no longer tolerate it, by rolling the wheel completely closed.

Contact your healthcare provider if you do not feel better after drainage.

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When you are done draining, roll the wheel on the roller clamp toward the bottle to close the tube completely. It will stop draining when there is no more fluid to be drained or when the bottle is full. **Do NOT drain more than what your doctor ordered.**

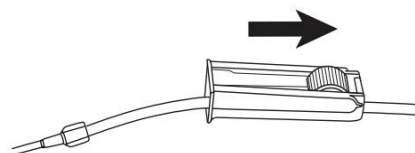


Figure 15. Closing rolling clamp. CareFusion. Image used with permission from Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD).

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Hold the tube that goes into your body in one hand and the tube that is attached to the bottle in your other hand. Pull the bottle tubing straight out.

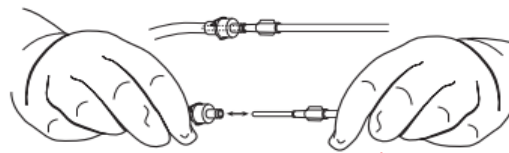


Figure 16. Removing access tip. CareFusion. Image used with permission from Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD).

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Clean the end of the tube that goes into your body with an alcohol swab for 15 to 20 seconds. **Do not stick the alcohol swab in the tube as this can damage the tube.** Hold the tube and let it dry.

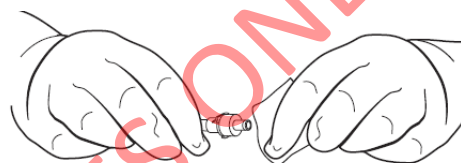


Figure 17. Cleaning catheter valve. CareFusion. Image used with permission from Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD).

23

Place a new catheter cap on the tube that goes into your body. Turn the cap clockwise (right) to lock it into place. You will hear a “click.” **Do not force the cap on as this can damage the catheter.**

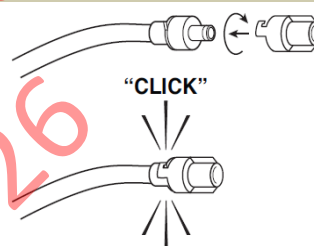
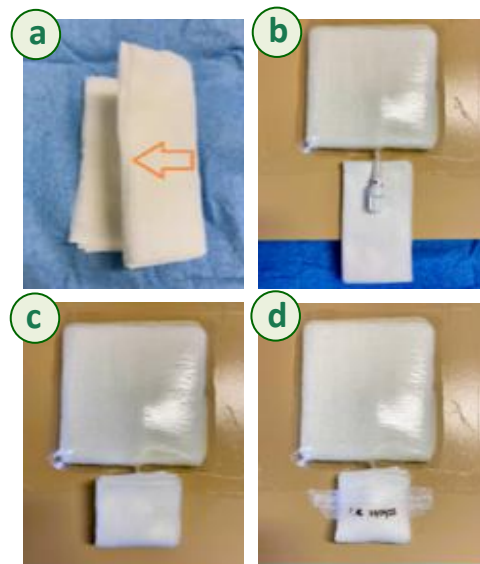


Figure 18. Applying sterile valve cap. CareFusion. Image used with permission from Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD).

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Cover the catheter cap area by making a new gauze pocket:

- Fold a 4x4" gauze pad in half.
- Place the folded 4x4" gauze pad under the catheter line and cap vertically (up/down).
- Fold the gauze pad upward to cover the catheter line and cap so it cannot be accessed from the bottom.
- Use medical tape to hold the folded gauze pad in place. You can date and sign the tape, so that your healthcare provider knows when you last used your drain.



Figures 19 - 22. Partial dressing change (pocket). SHA [Interprofessional Practice]. 2025.

- 25 Place the drainage bottle full of fluid into two garbage bags. Put it in the garbage or your hazardous waste bin.
- 26 Remove your gloves.
- 27 Wash your hands.
- 28 Write the date, time, amount, colour, and any comments on your drainage record (next page). Show the record to your healthcare provider at your next visit.

Emergency Kit Instructions

In the event of an emergency where you may have accidentally cut the tube or it has fallen out of your body, you **must** use the emergency kit provided to you and follow these steps:

Accidental Cut to Tube

- 1 Pinch the catheter closed between your fingers.
- 2 Slide the emergency clamp over the tube into the small end of the clamp. This will close the line.
- 3 Cover the tube that goes into your body with a gauze pad and tape it in place.
- 4 Go to your nearest Emergency Department (ED) or call 911.

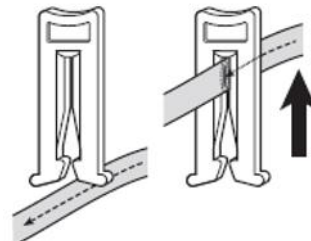


Figure 23. Clamping catheter closed with slide clamp. Image used with permission from Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD).

Tube Dislodgement

- 1 Put petroleum jelly on a piece of gauze.
- 2 Put the gauze with petroleum jelly on to the site where the tube comes out of your body.
- 3 Go to your nearest Emergency Department (ED) or call 911.

For more information, watch the [PleurX™ Patient Education Video from BD](http://www.bd.com/en-ca/videos/pleurx-patient-education-video)
(www.bd.com/en-ca/videos/pleurx-patient-education-video)



If you have any questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider.

This information will be located on your Discharge Instructions.

Drainage Record

[illegible]

Drainage Record

[illegible]



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Healthy People, Healthy Saskatchewan

The Saskatchewan Health Authority works in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, acknowledging Saskatchewan as the traditional territory of First Nations and Métis People.

PIER—Patient Information and Education Resource

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