

Indwelling Pleural Catheter Quick-Reference Guide

This free one-page quick-reference is designed for nurses, caregivers, and patients managing a PleurX, Rocket IPC, ASEPT, or Aspira catheter at home. Use it as a simple checklist to ensure safe, consistent drainage and infection prevention.

KEY STEPS BEFORE DRAINAGE:

- Perform hand hygiene.
- Gather correct supplies for your catheter system.
- Position patient sitting upright or slightly reclined.
- Review maximum drainage amount ordered by provider.

DRAINAGE CHECKLIST:

- Connect tubing without touching sterile ends.
- Ensure tubing is not kinked or twisted.
- For bottle systems: activate vacuum.
- For bag systems: open clamps and keep bag below chest level.
- Monitor for mild cough or pressure (normal).
- STOP if patient reports pain, dizziness, or sudden shortness of breath.

AFTER DRAINAGE:

- Disconnect tubing and replace protective cap if needed.
- Ensure dressing is dry and intact.
- Document drainage amount, color, and tolerance.

RED FLAGS (CALL PROVIDER SAME DAY):

- Spreading redness, warmth, or tenderness around the site.
- Thick, cloudy, or foul-smelling fluid.
- Sudden breathing changes or dizziness.
- Catheter looks longer than usual or appears pulled out.
- No drainage despite proper setup.

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