

*Procedure Checklists for Craven and Hirnle's Fundamentals
of Nursing: Human Health and Function, 6th edition*

Name _____ Date _____

Unit _____ Position _____

Instructor/Evaluator: _____ Position _____

			Monitoring a Client With a Chest Drainage System	
Excellent	Satisfactory	Needs Practice	Goal: To monitor respiratory status of a patient with a chest tube; to ensure chest drainage system is functioning adequately to promote lung expansion.	Comments
_____	_____	_____	1. Confirm physician's order including amount of suction.	
_____	_____	_____	2. Assist client to semi- or high Fowler's position.	
_____	_____	_____	3. Assess insertion site of chest tube. Note and document amount and color of drainage on dressing around insertion site. Feel insertion site for crepitus—air leaking into the subcutaneous tissue. Document any crepitus found. Reinforce insertion dressing as needed.	
_____	_____	_____	4. Assess status of chest tubing. Be sure tubing remains at the level of the client and no dependent loops are present. Assess that there are no visible clots in the tubing. You may gently "milk" (compress tubing with fingers) the clots to encourage movement into the drainage system, but you never want to strip chest tubing.	
_____	_____	_____	5. Assess the drainage collection chamber. Be sure to keep chest drainage system upright. Assess for amount, color, and character of drainage. Mark the collection chamber to accurately reflect the amount of drainage accumulated during your shift. Note any significant increase in the amount of drainage.	
_____	_____	_____	6. Assess suction chamber. Make sure the water level in the suction chamber is at the prescribed amount of suction and that it is connected to the wall suction that is turned on to continuous suction. Usually the suction is set at 10 to 20 mm Hg.	
_____	_____	_____	7. Assess the system for any air leaks. Check all external connections (i.e., the chest tube's connection to the drainage system, the suction tubing's connection to the drainage system). Examine the water seal chamber as the client breathes normally and as he or she coughs.	
_____	_____	_____	8. Encourage the client to cough, deep breathe, and use an incentive spirometer frequently. Provide analgesics as necessary.	
_____	_____	_____	9. Clamping chest tubes is no longer recommended.	

			Monitoring a Client With a Chest Drainage System (Continued)	
Excellent	Satisfactory	Needs Practice	Goal: To monitor respiratory status of a patient with a chest tube; to ensure chest drainage system is functioning adequately to promote lung expansion.	Comments
_____	_____	_____	10. If the chest tube becomes expelled, do not leave the client. Cover the opening where the chest tube had been inserted with the sterile 4" × 4" gauze, and keep direct pressure on the site. Send a colleague to call the physician immediately.	
_____	_____	_____	11. Document chest tube drainage, chest tube patency, presence of an air leak, amount of suction, pain level, dressing status, and respiratory status.	