

UW Medicine



Going Home with Your PleurX Drain

What you need to know

This handout explains how to care for your PleurX drain after it is placed. Please see the materials in the folder you received, called “Patient Information: PleurX Catheter System.” The folder has a DVD, a “Drainage Instructions” poster, and a brochure with answers to common questions.

This handout gives only basic information. For more detailed instructions, read the “Instructions for Use” materials that come with the drainage kits, and watch the drainage video.

Important Information

- Follow your doctor’s instructions on how often to drain fluid from your catheter and how much fluid to drain.
- A medical supply company called **Edgepark Medical** will mail drainage kits to you. You can call them at 877-307-8033. Or, visit their website at www.edgepark.com.
- If you are a patient at Seattle Cancer Care Alliance (SCCA) and you run out of drainage kits before your shipment arrives, you can also get kits at the SCCA Patient Supply Window on the 5th floor. Please ask your SCCA clinic nurse for help with this.

Drainage Instructions

Getting Started

- **Gather all of your drainage supplies.**
- **Wash your hands well.**
- **Have your “Drainage Instructions” poster nearby** so that you can refer to it.
- **Review the DVD** that was included in your “Instructions for Use” materials. Or, watch the video online at:



Be sure to wash your hands well before working with your drain.

www.carefusion.com/medical-products/interventional-procedures/drainage/pleurx/pleurx-patient-education.aspx

Connecting the Drainage Bottle

- **Be sure to keep the end of the catheter and access tip clean.**
- Follow the instructions on your “Drainage Instructions” poster.

Draining Fluid

- Do **not** drain more than these amounts at any one time:
 - **From your chest:** No more than 1,000 mL or the amount recommended by your provider
 - **From your abdomen:** No more than 2,000 mL

Final Steps and Disposal

- Empty the bottle into a toilet.
- To dispose of the bottle, place it in a plastic bag, seal it tightly, and throw it away. Do **not** place the bottle in a recycling bin.
- **If you have any questions or concerns about your PleurX drainage system, talk with your doctor or nurse.**

When to Call

Call your health care provider if you have:

- Pain that gets worse and is not relieved with your medicine
- Bleeding or drainage from around your PleurX drain
- Chills or fever higher than 101.5°F (38.3°C)
- Shortness of breath or chest pain

Also call your provider if:

- The tube is dislodged or falls out
- The drainage bulb is attached and nothing comes out of the drain
- You run out of supplies and you need to drain

Who to Call After Your PleurX Drain Is Placed

If you have had your first visit with your referring provider after having your PleurX drain placed, call that provider if you have any questions or concerns about your drain.

If you have questions or concerns and have not yet had your first visit with your referring provider:

- Weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., call UWMC Interventional Radiology at **206-598-6897** (press #2).
- After hours (between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m.) and on weekends and holidays, call **206-598-6190** and ask for the Interventional Radiology Fellow on call to be paged.

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or health care provider if you have question or concerns. Hospital staff are also available to help.