

**NURSING 202 – ADVANCED CONCEPTS OF NURSING**  
**CLASS PREP - CHEST TRAUMA: CHEST TUBES & DRAINAGE SYSTEMS**

*It is important for the nurse to provide competent care when the patient has a chest tube. Independently review chest tube care and answer the following questions.*

1. What should be your focal assessments for a patient with a chest tube?
  - Focal assessment should include respirations such as number a minute and quality, work of breathing such as if they are using accessory muscles and having a hard time breathing, checking the chest tube system looking for any kinks in the tubing, ensuring the tube is in the right place, how much water is left in the water seal, making sure the draining system is below the patient's chest, assess the drainage in the chamber, assess the patients position to ensure they aren't laying on any tubes, listen to lung sounds
  
2. Define the term "tidaling".
  - Water in the water-seal chamber should rise with inhalation and fall with exhalation
  
3. Why might tidaling fail to occur?
  - the tubing could be kinked or clamed, or a dependent tubing section may have become clogged with fluid backup
  
4. Define/describe the term "bubbling".
  - Bubbling reflects the amount of air draining out of the pleural space
  
5. What causes bubbling?
  - Air leak from the pleural space
  
6. What is an acceptable safety measure regarding tubing connections for chest tubes and drainage tubing?
  - Never clamp

- Ensure all connections are tight
7. What is the generally ordered suction pressure for a chest tube drainage system?
- -20cm H<sub>2</sub>O
8. What pressure should you set the wall suction regulator to?
- 80-120 mmHg
9. What type of dressing would be used for a chest tube dressing?
- petroleum gauze
10. Name 2 priority nursing diagnoses when providing care to the patient who has a chest tube.
- Risk for bleeding
  - Risk for infection