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?

   Know respiratory rate, quality of respirations/the work put into each breath, SpO2, look at the dressing to see if there's any drainage, check the placement of the tube, check for any kinks or if the tubing is being laid on or pinched off in the bed, check to see how much water is left in the water seal, make sure the chest tube system is below the patient's chest, assess the drainage in the collecting chamber.

2. Define the term "tidaling".

   Fluctuations in the water seal camber as the pt is inhaling and exhaling

3. Why might tidaling fail to occur?

   The tubing could be kinked or clamped, or the tubing has filled with fluid

4. Define/describe the term "bubbling".

   intermittent bubbling goes along with respirations in the water seal chamber but should go away once the lungs expand.

5. What causes bubbling?

   An air leak from the pleural space or a leak in the system (a loose connection at the site of insertion)

6. What is an acceptable safety measure regarding tubing connections for chest tubes and drainage tubing?
   Make sure all connections are tight and secure. Make sure there are no kinks or obstructions.

7. What is the generally ordered suction pressure for a chest tube drainage system?

   10-20cm H2O

8. What pressure should you set the wall suction regulator to?

   -20mm Hg

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 infection

    Risk for bleeding