

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?

Assess RR, work of breathing, breath sounds, and SpO₂

2. Define the term “tidaling”.

The water in the water-seal chamber rises with inhalation and drops with exhalation

3. Why might tidaling fail to occur?

If the tubing is kinked or clamped, or clogged

4. Define/describe the term “bubbling”.

Bubbling that occurs in the chambers

5. What causes bubbling?

A large air leak between the drain and pt

6. What is an acceptable safety measure regarding tubing connections for chest tubes and drainage tubing?

Ensure all connections are taped and secured

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

-20cm H₂O

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

$\leq 150\text{mmHg}$

9. What type of dressing would be used for a chest tube dressing?

Occlusive sterile dressing

10. Name 2 priority nursing diagnoses when providing care to the patient who has a chest tube.

Deficient Fluid Volume

Risk for infection