

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

1. What should be your focal assessments for a patient with a chest tube?

Vital signs, breath sounds, SpO₂, color, and respiratory effort.

2. Define the term “tidaling”.

Water level fluctuating in the water seal chamber with each respiration.

3. Why might tidaling fail to occur?

This may be indicative of lung re-expansion or an obstruction within the system.

4. Define/describe the term “bubbling”.

Bubbling refers to bubbles appearing in the water seal chamber.

5. What causes bubbling?

Air leaks, exhalation, sneezing, or coughing.

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

Never clamp the tube! Ensure tubing from the bed to the drainage system is straight to promote drainage via gravity. Tape all connections between the chest tube and chest tube drainage system.

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

-20 cm H₂O.

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

It must be set to the manufacturer’s recommendation.

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

Dry, sterile dressing.

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

-Ineffective Breathing Pattern -Risk for Infection