

**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?  
***Vital signs, amount and color of drainage, breath sounds, respiratory effort, pain and comfort.***
2. Define the term “tidaling”.  
***When water is fluctuating as a response to respiration rates. This should correlate with the respiration rate.***
3. Why might tidaling fail to occur?  
***If there is an obstruction of the tubing system or lung re-expansion.***
4. Define/describe the term “bubbling”.  
***When bubbles are present in the water seal chamber.***
5. What causes bubbling?  
***Air leaks, coughing, sneezing or possibly exhalation.***
6. What is an acceptable safety measure regarding tubing connections for chest tubes and drainage tubing?  
***Keep and ensure all connections are taped/secure, check for kinks, and DO NOT CLAMP!***
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?  
***Whatever the manufacturer suggests.***
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.  
***Risk for infection  
Impaired physical mobility***