

**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?

- incision site of tube (clean, dry, intact, erythema, edema, discharge, pain)

- Amount and color of drainage in chest tube

- type of chest tube

- lung sounds, breathing pattern/rate

2. Define the term “tidaling”.

The rise and fall of fluid within a closed chest drainage system that happens with inhalation and exhalation.

3. Why might tidaling fail to occur?

If the client has pulmonary edema.

4. Define/describe the term “bubbling”.

Bubbling of the water in the water seal. Occasional bubbling is normal.

5. What causes bubbling?

Continuous bubbling could mean there is an air leak in the chest tube.

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

Making sure all the connections are taped and the chest tube is secured to the chest wall. Also making sure the system is below chest level.

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

The normal suction pressure for a chest tube drainage system is 20cm H<sub>2</sub>O.

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

The suction regulator should be greater than 80mmHg.

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

Xeroform around the chest tube at the insertion site and apply a 4x4 gauze dressing around the chest tube.

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

Impaired gas exchange

Risk for infection