

**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?  
**Frequent VS (esp. spo<sub>2</sub>), pain level, breath sounds, patient's color, respiratory effort, symmetry of breathing, chest tube drainage (color, amount, any clots), tidaling**
2. Define the term "tidaling".  
**Rise and fall of fluid within a closed chest drainage system on inhalation and exhalation**
3. Why might tidaling fail to occur?  
**When the lung has re-expanded, when there is an air leak, when dependent tubing hangs before the rest of the tubing, or when suction is not working.**
4. Define/describe the term "bubbling".  
**you will either see continuous bubble in the water chamber or intermittent/occasional bubbling in the water chamber.**
5. What causes bubbling?  
**Continuous bubbling is caused by an air leak in the closed system, you can see intermittent with forceful expiration or coughing.**
6. What is an acceptable safety measure regarding tubing connections for chest tubes and drainage tubing?
  - **Keep the HOB at 30 degrees or higher**
  - **Secure to chest wall when ambulating to prevent leaks**
  - **Preventing kinking or occlusion during activity**
7. What is the generally ordered suction pressure for a chest tube drainage system?  
**-20**
8. What pressure should you set the wall suction regulator to?  
**-10 to -40**
- 9.
10. What type of dressing would be used for a chest tube dressing?  
**Sterile occlusive dressing**
11. Name 2 priority nursing diagnoses when providing care to the patient who has a chest tube.  
**Impaired gas exchange and risk for infection**