

**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, pain level, breath sounds, respiratory effort, patients color, symmetry of breathing, chest tube drainage, tidaling

2. Define the term “tidaling”.

Rise and fall of the fluid within a closed chest drainage system on inhalation and exhalation

3. Why might tidaling fail to occur?

When the lung has re-expanded or when there is an air leak, when dependent tubing hangs before the rest of the tubing, and when the suction is not working

4. Define/describe the term “bubbling”.

Bubbling in the water seal chamber indicates an air leak. You can see either continuous or intermittent 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 bubbling 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, prevent any kinks or occlusion, secure the chest wall when ambulating

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

Sterile occlusive dressing

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

Impaired gas exchange, and risk for infection