

**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?
  - Monitoring respiratory status, chest tube insertion site, drainage system and overall comfort levels and pain levels of the patient
2. Define the term “tidaling”.
  - up and down movement of the fluid level in water seal chamber of a chest tube drainage system. This indicates that the chest tube is functioning properly and that air or fluid is being drained.
3. Why might tidaling fail to occur?
  - tube occlusion, a fully expanded lung or loss of sub atmosphere pressure.
4. Define/describe the term “bubbling”.
  - Indicated presence of air in the drainage system. Small amounts is normal but excessive could be due to air leak, such as a pneumothorax, leak in the drainage system
5. What causes bubbling?
  - air in the drainage system
6. What is an acceptable safety measure regarding tubing connections for chest tubes and drainage tubing?
  - Ensure the tubing is not kinked so clots do not form.
7. What is the generally ordered suction pressure for a chest tube drainage system?
  - 20 cm H<sub>2</sub>O
8. What pressure should you set the wall suction regulator to?
  - minimum of -80mmHg

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

- an occlusive dressing such as a Vaseline gauze or a air tight dressing

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

- Impaired gas exchange

- Risk for infection