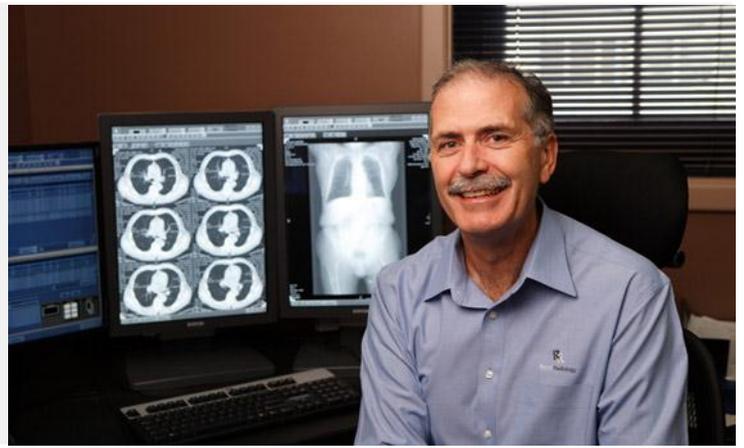


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

MRN: \_\_\_\_\_

Appointment Time: \_\_\_\_\_ AM / PM

Appointment Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_



## PLEURX DRAIN PATIENT INFORMATION

### What is a PleurX Drain?

A PleurX Drain is a permanent tunneled drain placed by a radiologist using ultrasound guidance. As the fluid builds up your caregiver will be able to drain the fluid in your home reducing the need for you to attend hospital for each drain.

### What preparation is involved?

There is no preparation required.

### Can I take my medication as normal?

Please let radiology staff know if you take any blood thinning medication prior to your procedure, by contacting radiology reception on 8275 1906, as you may need a blood test.

All other medications can be continued as normal.

If you take krill or fish oil, this should be stopped 7 days prior to your procedure.

### What will happen during the procedure?

The radiologist will explain the procedure and risks to you and ask for your consent. You will change into a hospital gown and lie down on the table in the procedure room. A preliminary ultrasound scan will be performed to assess the area to be drained. Under sterile conditions the area will be cleaned with an antiseptic solution and the area draped with sterile drapes. The radiologist will inject the area with local anaesthetic to make the procedure more comfortable

for you. There will be 2 small skin incisions made and the drain will be placed into position.

### How long will the procedure take?

A PleurX drain placement will usually take about an hour but in some circumstances it may take longer.

### Are there any risks?

There is a risk of bleeding and bruising which is minimized by managing your blood thinning medication, and by using ultrasound to guide the drain into place.

There is a risk of infection which is minimised by inserting your drain under sterile conditions.

It is imperative that your caregiver is educated on how to manage the drainage in a sterile manner to reduce the risk of infection developing at a later stage. Repat Radiology will liaise with your referring doctor to ensure this is in place.

### What happens after the procedure?

Following the procedure, you will remain in the radiology department while your fluid is drained. During this time we will monitor your blood pressure and if necessary cease your drain for a small time. During this time, you will be kept comfortable and offered refreshments.

### Can I drive after the procedure?

You should not drive for 24 hrs after this procedure.

### Repatriation General Hospital

Daws Road, Daw Park, South Australia 5041

Ph: 8275 1906 | F: 8275 1116

[www.repatradiology.com.au](http://www.repatradiology.com.au) | [repat.radiology@health.sa.gov.au](mailto:repat.radiology@health.sa.gov.au)

Opening Hours: Monday—Friday, 8.30am—5pm

**Can I shower?**

Yes, you can shower but it is important to keep the dressing dry and intact. Ensure the gauze is completely covered by the plastic dressing. If this becomes loose or dislodged allowing the dressing underneath to become wet the dressing will need to be changed.

**Can I have a bath or swim?**

No you should not swim. You may only take a bath if the drain insertion site is not submerged.

**When should my dressing be changed?**

The dressing should be changed at every drainage. Your home nurse will change this unless you or your caregiver have been educated, and are comfortable to do this.

**How long can the catheter stay in place?**

The PleurX drain is designed to stay in place for a long period of time, but may be removed if necessary. Each patient’s situation is unique and your referring doctor will make this decision if needed.

**What happens if the catheter gets pulled out?**

The catheter is anchored to your skin with a suture which will be removed in 5 days. The body will anchor the drain in place which is tunneled under your skin creating a very secure placement.

**How will I know if something is wrong?**

You should seek medical assistance if;

- You have a fever with a temperature higher than 38°C, contact your doctor or nurse immediately, or attend your nearest hospital with an emergency department
- You experience a low grade temperature and a feeling of general fatigue or weakness that lasts for more than 24 hours this may mean the beginning of an infection.

**If you notice changes at the insertion site, increased redness, swelling or pus, contact your doctor or nurse immediately.**

**Who pays for the ongoing drainage equipment?**

This will be arranged with your referring doctor before your procedure. It will normally be the oncology unit who is managing your treatment.

**Who can I contact if I am not sure about something or require further information?**

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact our radiology nursing staff on 8275 1961 during business hours and they will assist with your questions, or direct you to the most appropriate medical centre. Alternatively you can contact your home nurse caregiver.

**INFORMATION FOR THE NURSE**

**MANAGING THE DRAIN**

Date suture to be removed: \_\_\_\_\_

Next drainage: \_\_\_\_\_

Treating doctor’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Treating doctor’s contact details: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Information: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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