

Respiratory Medicine

Insert patient details/patient sticker

Indwelling Pleural Catheter (IPC) after care

Information for patients and community teams, following insertion

Introduction

This leaflet provides information about recovering after an IPC insertion. Please read this information carefully and if you have any questions, please contact your clinical team. This information supplements the Rocket Medical 'Information for patients and nurses' which should also have been given to you by the hospital. This contains detailed information regarding drainage, including frequently asked questions.



What happens next?

Today (.....) you have had an IPC inserted into your RIGHT / LEFT side at ST. MARY'S / CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL. This is generally a very safe procedure. The following information explains what to expect after your procedure.

Who will drain the fluid?

Your local district nurse is aware that you have had an indwelling pleural catheter inserted. He/she will visit you within the next 5 days to complete your first home drainage. If you become confident with the catheter and the drainage procedure, you or a family member, friend or career

could be taught how to do your own drainages, ensuring you keep the catheter and attachments very clean.

How will the fluid be drained?

Your district nurse will visit you at home. He/she will remove the protective dressing and clean the catheter, wearing sterile gloves. They will then attach the drainage bottle to your catheter and slowly start to drain the fluid by pressing the button on the tubing. If this becomes uncomfortable you should let them know so they can slow down the rate of drainage or even stop the drainage.

When will the fluid be drained?

Initially the fluid will be drained every 2-3 days. Usually 1 bottle of fluid will be drained at each sitting. If the collection of fluid becomes smaller, the frequency of the drainages will reduce. You may only require drainage once a week and then possibly even less often than that. If there is no further fluid to drain, either you or the district nurses should get in touch with the hospital team. We can then assess you and possibly even arrange for removal of the catheter.

How do we get more drainage bottles?

Your district nurse and GP can arrange for further drainage bottles. The details of the product have been sent to them, and they are able to prescribe the drainage bottles for collection from your local pharmacy. These details can also be found in the Rocket Medical information pack.

What happens to the bottles?

Your district nursing team will arrange for your council to provide a clinical waste collection of the drainage bottles.

What about the stitches?

Your doctor has inserted 2 stitches to temporarily hold the drain in place. **Both** of these stitches (one at the catheter exit site, and one approximately 5cm from this) need to be removed in 10 days' time by the pleural team. This should not be painful.

Who to contact for help and advice?

If you have any queries or concerns regarding dates and times for drainage, please contact your district nurse team.

Your named district nurse is:

Contact number:

If you have any questions regarding your diagnosis and further hospital care, please contact the Pleural Team on 07876138418 or imperial.pleural@nhs.net (Monday to Friday between 09.00 – 17.00). The pleural team will also contact you at regular intervals to see how you're getting on.

Pleural Consultants

Dr Ross / Dr Sinharay (St Mary's)
0203 312 7942

Dr Reynolds (Charing Cross)
0203 311 7198

How do I make a comment about my visit?

We aim to provide the best possible service and staff will be happy to answer any of the questions you may have. If you have any **suggestions** or **comments** about your visit, please either speak to a member of staff or contact the patient advice and liaison service (**PALS**) on **020 3312 7777** (10.00 – 16.00, Monday to Friday). You can also email PALS at imperial.pals@nhs.net. The PALS team will listen to your concerns, suggestions or queries and is often able to help solve problems on your behalf.

Alternatively, you may wish to complain by contacting our complaints department:

Complaints department, fourth floor, Salton House, St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street
London W2 1NY

Email: ICHC-tr.Complaints@nhs.net

Telephone: **020 3312 1337 / 1349**

Alternative formats

This leaflet can be provided on request in large print or easy read, as a sound recording, in Braille or in alternative languages. Please email the communications team: imperial.communications@nhs.net

Wi-fi

Wi-fi is available at our Trust. For more information visit our website: www.imperial.nhs.uk