

Looking after your indwelling pleural catheter (IPC) at home

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Na żądanie ta ulotka może zostać udostępniona
w innych językach/formatach.

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Introduction

This information follows on from your attendance for insertion of your indwelling pleural catheter (IPC). This contains detailed information about drainage, including frequently asked questions.

Who will drain the fluid?

A district nurse will visit you within a few days to complete your first home drainage. If you feel confident with the IPC and the drainage process, your nurse can teach you, or a family member, how to drain the IPC yourself and how to keep the catheter and attachments clean.

How will the fluid be drained?

The district nurse 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, please 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 approximately two to three times a week. Usually one bottle of fluid will be drained each time. 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 less often than that. If there is no more fluid to drain, either you or your district nurse should contact the hospital team. We can then assess you and, if appropriate, arrange for your catheter to be removed.

How do I get more drainage bottles?

The district nurse and GP can arrange this for you. They have the product details and can arrange for you to collect the drainage bottles from your local pharmacy.

What happens to the bottles?

The district nursing team, or yourself, can ask your local council to collect them.

What about my stitches?

Your doctor has inserted two stitches to temporarily hold the drain in place; one at the catheter exit site and one approximately five centimetres (cm) from this. Both stitches will be removed after 2 weeks by your district nurse. This should not be painful.

Who should I call for help and advice?

If you experience any symptoms of severe shortness of breath, sharp chest pain or coughing up blood (haemoptysis) following insertion of your IPC, you should attend your local A&E Department.

If you have any questions about your future hospital care, please contact your hospital consultant or the lung nursing team on 0151 430 1367/2326 (Mon-Fri, 9am–5pm).

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