

# Chest Drain Insertion Checklist for Critical Care

**Aim** To provide a reminder of key safety points for chest drain insertion

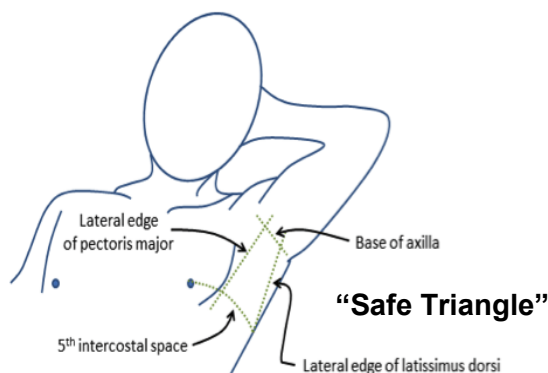
**Scope** Chest drain insertion on Critical Care. This is designed as a reminder for practitioners already competent in this procedure.

## 1. Pre-Procedure Checks

- Patient's identity?
- Radiology reviewed?
- Side of procedure?
- Indication:  
*Air? Fluid? Trauma?*
- Physiologically safe to proceed?
- Coagulation profile reviewed?
- Ultrasound:  
*Realtime? Marked anatomical?*
- Drain to be used:  
*Surgical? Seldinger? Size?*
- Samples required:  
*White top: Protein & LDH? Cytology?  
Culture bottles: MC&S?*

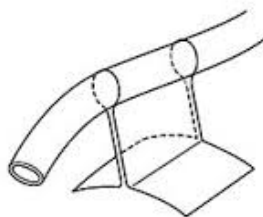
## 2. Time-Out

- Team roles confirmed?
- Appropriate sedation & analgesia?  
*Remember local +/- adrenaline*
- Appropriate ventilator settings?
- Appropriate positioning?



## 3. Post-Procedure

- Drain sutured securely:  
*2 Mersilk thread with "mesentery" to tubing & secure connections?*
- Physiologically stable?
- Ventilation strategy?
- Plan for drainage of pleural effusions:  
*eg clamp drain for 1 hour if more than 1000ml drained after first 3000ml.*
- Plan for chest drain suction/aspiration?
- Post-procedure CXR?
- Notes completed on CIS?
- Flushes prescribed (if required)?



Biocclusive  
"mesentery"  
to skin  
reducing  
tension on  
connections



Knots on tubing  
tight enough to  
deform tube