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)?

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