

After Your Thoracentesis

Refer to this sheet in the next few weeks. These instructions provide you with information about caring for yourself after your procedure. Your health care provider may also give you more specific instructions. Your treatment has been planned according to current medical practices, but problems sometimes occur. Call your health care provider if you have any problems or questions after your procedure.

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER THE PROCEDURE

After your procedure, it is common to have discomfort at the puncture site.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Dressing can be removed after 48 hours
- **Do not** take baths, swim, or use a hot tub until after dressing is removed
- Check your puncture site every day for signs of infection. Watch for:
 - Redness, swelling, or pain.
 - Fluid, blood, or pus.
- If you take blood thinning medications such as Warfarin (Coumadin), Aspirin, Plavix, Xarelto, Eliquis, check with your provider about when to restart
- We recommend taking Tylenol or Ibuprofen for discomfort, check with your provider first
- You may return to your normal diet and normal activities as directed by your health care provider.
- Drink enough fluid to keep your urine clear or pale yellow.
- Keep all follow-up visits as directed by your health care provider. This is important.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You have redness, swelling, or pain at your puncture site.
- You have fluid, blood, or pus coming from your puncture site.
- You have a fever.
- You have chills.
- You have nausea or vomiting.
- You have trouble breathing.
- You develop a worsening cough.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You have extreme shortness of breath.
- You develop chest pain.
- You faint or feel light-headed.