



**MONITORING THORACOSTOMY (CHEST) TUBES DURING
INTERFACILITY TRANSPORT**



PROCEDURE

- ABCs/monitor cardiac rhythm.
- High flow oxygen.
- Head elevated at 45° angle.
- Assure all connections are securely taped to prevent disconnection.
- Hang the collection chamber on the side of the gurney (do not tip over).
- Keep the collection chamber below the level of the chest.
- Avoid dependent loops of fluid filled tubing.
- If chest tube is pulled out, place occlusive dressing over insertion site.
- If air leaks, check connections.
- If chest tube partially pulled out:
 - Do not push tube back into chest.
 - Secure the site.
- If patients become dyspneic:
 - Assess breath sounds.
 - Contact Base (needle thoracostomy may need to be done).
- Notify receiving center if any complications occur during transport.
- Document:
 1. Any difficulties or complications during transport.
 2. Patient's response.

Approved: