

PAEDIATRIC NURSING PRACTICE MANUAL  
SECTION 12

CARE OF THE CHILD WITH NEUROLOGICAL OR NEUROSURGICAL CONDITION

12.2 EXTERNAL DRAINAGE OF CSF

12.2.2 CHANGE OF EXTERNAL VENTRICULAR DRAINAGE SET

**Aim**

To change external ventricular drainage set without contamination of the apparatus

**Key points**

1. This document must be utilised in conjunction with [PNPM 12.2.1](#) Care of the Patient having External Drainage of Cerebrospinal Fluid.
2. This procedure is an aseptic non touch technique. Refer to [A&NTT Framework](#).
3. Inspect extension set ports for the presence of vented cap(s) prior to connection to the child. Replace vented caps on unused ports with nonvented caps. Refer to [PNPM 2.3.2](#) Peripheral Intravenous (PIV) Access – Principles and Management.
4. The drainage set is changed up to every 7 days or as ordered by the neurosurgeon.
5. The drainage bag is changed when  $\frac{3}{4}$  full<sup>1</sup> using a non touch technique

**Equipment**

70% Alcohol (for decontaminating trolley)  
Dressing trolley  
Dressing pack  
Sterile gloves  
10mL luer lock syringe & 0.9% saline for priming  
2% chlorhexidine and 70% alcohol wipes  
3-way tap  
Needle free bung  
Codman external drainage set  
Laser light

PROCEDURE	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Perform hand hygiene. Decontaminate trolley with alcohol 70% prior to procedure set up. Open sterile equipment onto sterile field.	
Don gloves.	

PROCEDURE	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
<p>Assemble sterile external ventricular drainage tubing and 3-way tap.</p> <p>Attach a needle free bung to port on base of burette and/or three way tap</p> <p>Clamp the tubing on drainage set.</p>	
<p>Use alcohol wipes to disinfect existing external drainage tubing and 3-way taps in situ.</p> <p>Allow to dry.</p>	
<p>Close the 3-way tap closest to the insertion site</p> <p>Disconnect second 3-way tap and existing tubing.</p>	
<p>Connect the new tubing and the 3-way tap.</p>	
<p>Using a laser light, position the graduated chamber at the prescribed height in relation to the Foramen of Monro. Refer to <a href="#">PNPM 12.2.1</a> Care of the Patient having External Drainage of Cerebrospinal Fluid.</p>	<p>The height of the chamber will determine the rate of the CSF drainage.</p>
<p>Attach drainage bag to a suitable support below the level of the patient.</p>	
<p>Open both 3-way taps to patient and slowly unclamp the connections.</p> <p>Check for leakage from tubing/connections.</p> <p>Observe for flow and drainage of CSF.</p>	

**Reference:**

1. Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children. Clinical guideline – external ventricular drainage. 2009. Available from: [http://www.ich.ucl.ac.uk/clinical\\_information/clinical\\_guidelines/cpg\\_guideline\\_00069](http://www.ich.ucl.ac.uk/clinical_information/clinical_guidelines/cpg_guideline_00069). Accessed: 30 July 2010.

**Bibliography:**

Liverpool Health Service, Intensive Care Unit. Care of the patient with an external ventricular drain (EVD) insitu. Accessed 30<sup>th</sup> July 2010. Available from [http://intensivecare.hsnw.gov.au/five/doc/evd\\_guideline\\_S\\_n\\_liverpool.pdf](http://intensivecare.hsnw.gov.au/five/doc/evd_guideline_S_n_liverpool.pdf)

Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne. Clinical guidelines (hospital) – external ventricular drains and intracranial monitoring. Accessed 30<sup>th</sup> July 2010. Available from [http://www.rch.org.au/rhcpg/index.cfm?doc\\_id=12860](http://www.rch.org.au/rhcpg/index.cfm?doc_id=12860)

Codman™ EDS3 External Ventricular Drainage System, Product Information available at [http://www.depuy.com/sites/default/files/products/files/eds-pocketref\\_0.pdf?bcsi\\_scan\\_4612728BE7E7B4AB=0&bcsi\\_scan\\_filename=eds-pocketref\\_0.pdf](http://www.depuy.com/sites/default/files/products/files/eds-pocketref_0.pdf?bcsi_scan_4612728BE7E7B4AB=0&bcsi_scan_filename=eds-pocketref_0.pdf)