

PAEDIATRIC NURSING PRACTICE MANUAL
SECTION 7

CARE OF THE CHILD WITH A RESPIRATORY CONDITION

7.3 INTERCOSTAL CATHETER CARE

7.3.6 CONTINUOUS DRAINAGE OF AN INTERCOSTAL PIGTAIL CATHETER

Aim

To provide continuous drainage from a pigtail catheter

Key Points

1. This practice is not routinely undertaken at PMH. It must be requested and documented in the medical notes by the child's treating medical doctor.
2. This document must be read in conjunction with [PNPM 7.3.1.1](#) Assembly of an Intercostal Drainage Set, [PNPM 7.3.2](#) Management of an Intercostal Catheter and [PNPM 7.3.3](#) Changing an Intercostal Drainage Set.
3. The drainage system must be maintained as a sealed system to prevent potential for infection or air leakage into the chest.
4. Maintain strict adherence to aseptic non touch technique for set up and management of intercostal catheter drainage.
5. For removal of a pigtail catheter refer to [PNPM 7.3.4](#) Removal of an Intercostal Catheter

Equipment

Dressing trolley- decontaminate with 70% alcohol or sporacidal detergent wipes.

Dressing Pack

PPE: Sterile gloves, apron

2% Chlorhexidine/70% isopropyl alcohol swabs or solution.

Drainage Connecting Tube CTU14.0-30-ST (available from PICU)

Underwater Seal Chest Drainage Unit (Oasis™ or Ocean™)

Sterile water (500mL bottle)

Small cable tie and tightening gun (available from PICU)

Waste bag.

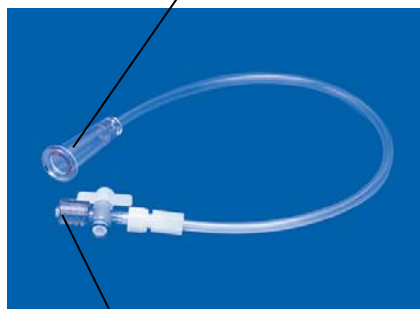
± Thoracic low flow suction regulator

PROCEDURE	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
<p>Clean trolley with 70% alcohol or sporacidal detergent wipe and allow to dry.</p> <p>Gather equipment.</p> <p>Apply apron.</p> <p>Repeat hand hygiene.</p>	

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Continuous Drainage of an Intercostal Pigtail Catheter
Intercostal Catheter Care
Paediatric Nursing Practice Manual (PNPM)
Princess Margaret Hospital
Perth, Western Australia

All protocols should be read in conjunction with the Disclaimer in the Preface of this manual

PROCEDURE	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Open dressing pack and carefully place sterile equipment onto the aseptic field. Don sterile gloves.	If required, ask an assistant to open outer packaging of equipment
Using an <i>aseptic non touch technique</i> , assemble the drainage unit according to PNPM 7.3.1.1 Assembly of an Intercostal Drainage Set	
Hold the pigtail catheter in non dominant hand with one swab and clean the connections with the other for at least 20 seconds. Allow to air dry.	
Remove the cap from the 3-way tap using a sterile dry gauze swab. Discard cap.	It may be necessary to aspirate the pigtail catheter (as per PNPM 7.3.5) before attachment of drain i.e. to check patency or as per medical instruction.
Attach the drainage connecting tube to the pigtail catheter and the Underwater Seal Drainage Unit (UWSD) Note: Connect chest drain to drainage connecting tube prior to commencing suction. Secure with a cable tie.	 <p>[Cook¹]</p>
Dispose of equipment. Decontaminate trolley with sporacidal wipe. Perform hand hygiene.	
Maintain the chest drain in an upright position and below the patient's chest at all times.	Prevents any fluid re-entering the chest from the drain.
Monitor drain, site and patient as per PNPM 7.3.2 Management of an Intercostal Catheter.	
If drainage decreases or ceases try repositioning the patient and/or aspirating the catheter as per PNPM 7.3.5 .	

Reference:

1. Cook Medical. Connecting tubes with drainage bag connector. [Manufacturer's instructions]. Bloomington IN: Cook Medical; 2007.