



Flow Chart for Insertion of a Chest Tube

Consent Risk assessment Check side and site of insertion Review clinical signs and radiological images

Determine patient position

Select and check equipment

'Time Out'

Confirm: consent, identity, labelling of images, side and site, images displayed

Premedication

Poliable veneus access

Reliable venous access Continuous oximetry

Position patient Identify and mark insertion site

Consider ultrasound guidance for effusions

Insertion of chest tube

Aseptic technique, local anaesthetic

Anchor chest tube – suture all
Connect to drain
Confirm pleural placement – Swing/air loss/drainage

Dress site

Confirm tube placement - chest x-ray

Document procedure

Monitor - chest drain, vital signs