

**Abington Memorial Hospital
Department of Interventional Radiology**

**POLICY FOR HOSPITAL/HOME CARE OF INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY
TUBES**

Purpose: To describe the procedure for the care of Interventional Radiology placed tubes to include biliary (external and internal), cholecystotomy, nephrostomy, abscess, and chest (pneumothorax and empyema) tubes

Responsible Persons: All registered and licensed practical nurses who have demonstrated proficiency in this procedure

Objective: To develop the procedure for safe care of Interventional Radiology tubes

Policy:

A. General Care of All Tubes

- a. Assemble following supplies.
 - i. Sterile NSS 10 cc pre-filled syringe
 - ii. Alcohol wipes
 - iii. Non-sterile gloves
 - iv. Drainage set as required
 - v. Wound cleanser
 - vi. Dressing (gauze or transparent dressing and Per-cu-stay as needed)
- b. Position patient to allow access to tube.
- c. Wash hands and prepare work area.

B. Follow instructions for tube irrigation (EXCEPT CHEST TUBE FOR PNEUMOTHORAX):

- Instructions for Capped Tube**
 - Open 10 cc normal saline (NSS) syringe.
 - Wipe rubber stopper at end of tube with an alcohol wipe.
 - Screw syringe onto end cap.
 - Flush tube slowly with ordered amount of NSS and do not pull back on syringe plunger.
 - If tube has a “lock” and “open” disk, **keep it locked at all times. Tube will come out if it is unlocked.**

- Instructions for Tube to Bag Drainage**
 - Open 10 cc normal saline (NSS) syringe.
 - Disconnect tube from drainage bag BELOW the piece that says “locked”. Wipe end of tube with alcohol and let dry.
 - Flush tube and do not draw back.
 - Disconnect syringe and wipe end with alcohol pad. Let dry. Reconnect drainage bag to tube.
 - If tube has a “lock” and “open” disk, **keep it locked at all times. Tube will come out if it is unlocked.**

- C. Follow instructions for dressing/bag change:
 - a. Remove dressing if soiled or loose.
 - i. Cleanse area with wound cleaner.
 - ii. Gently change Per-cu-stay, if present, when severely soiled or loose.
 - iii. Reapply dressing.
 - b. Change drainage bag system every 10 days or as needed.
 - i. Unscrew old drainage bag system.
 - ii. Wipe end of catheter with alcohol.
 - iii. Apply new drainage bag system.

- D. When to Call the Doctor:
 - a. Refer to tube protocol sheets for each individual tube type (specifically Items to Follow).
 - b. Any questions regarding tube care or problems with a tube.
 - c. For pre-filled syringe refills or dressing supply orders (**HOME CARE ONLY**).
 - d. When the patient is readmitted to the hospital (**HOME CARE ONLY**).

- E. How to Contact Physician:
 - a. If during the working hours of Monday – Friday, 7AM-5PM, call Interventional Radiology at **215-481-6745** for general questions regarding tube care or if a problem arises.
 - b. After the above hours either call the primary physician or have the patient report to the emergency room for serious concerns or problems (**HOME CARE ONLY**).
 - c. To schedule routine tube changes and checks, call 215-481-2071(**HOME CARE ONLY**).