You are ready to go home, but still need your chest tube. A small device, called an Atrium Express Mini 500, has been placed on the end of your chest tube to help you get better.

The Express Mini device allows air and fluid to escape from your chest while your lung heals. It holds about 2 cups of fluid (about 500 milliliters or 16 ounces).

While the Express Mini is generally automatic, there are some simple instructions.

**Items Needed for Home Use (all items are provided by Roswell Park)**
- Express Mini chest drains
- 60cc syringes to empty drainage, if needed. (Syringes have a Luer adaptor on the end, which provides a leak-free connection)
- Wound dressings

**Securing Your Device**
Use one or both of the straps that come with the Express Mini to securely attach the drain to your body, if required. Follow the picture instructions included or change to fit your specific needs. The device also has a hook to hang the device from a rail on a bed. Be sure the device is attached so it does not pull on your tube.

**Wound Dressing**
You have a dressing around your chest tube. This should be changed at least every other day, or as prescribed by your doctor.

**Showering/Bathing**
Ask your doctor if it is okay to shower. Showering with a chest tube is not advised unless your doctor says it is ok.
Checking for an Air Leak
There must be fluid in the collection chamber to check for an air leak. Temporarily tip the drain to the side, as shown in the diagram below, until fluid appears in the air leak window (marked “A” in diagram). If you see bubbling in the air leak window, it confirms that air is leaking from your chest. If you do not see any bubbling in the air leak window, it means that no air is leaking from your chest. Immediately return the Express Mini back to an upright position.

Checking for Vacuum
In window “C” there is a Checkmark that appears. This means the vacuum is present inside the chest drain. The checkmark may also appear intermittently with respiration. If the checkmark does not appear at all, make sure the chest tube is connected to the Atrium mini. If it is connected and still no checkmark appears, call the Thoracic Center at 716-845-3167, or after hours, call 716 845-2300 and ask for the thoracic surgeon on call. If it is not connected, see, “What to do if the Tube Becomes Disconnected” below.

Important Message
This device is very important and the tubing must stay attached to the end of your chest tube.

What to do if the Tube Becomes Disconnected
- Reconnect it IMMEDIATELY and tape it securely.
- If you can't get it back together, call us IMMEDIATELY. During business hours (Monday -Friday, 9 am – 5 pm), call the Center at 716-845-3167. After hours, call 716-845-2300 and ask the operator for the thoracic surgeon on call.
- If you have SHORTNESS OF BREATH with this, go to the nearest Emergency Room.
- If you start to see/feel subcutaneous air (air under the skin) in your chest, arms, neck, or face go to the closest emergency room.

Keep the Express Mini in an upright position and make sure the tubing stays firmly attached to the end of your chest tube. Do not allow the bag to completely fill with fluid or it may start to leak out.
How to Empty the Express Mini

When it is time to empty your device, follow these instructions.

Remember – empty it before it fills completely.

Screw the syringe firmly onto the port located on the bottom of the Express Mini.

Pull the plunger back on the syringe to empty the fluid.

When the syringe is full, unscrew the syringe and empty the fluid into the nearest suitable receptacle (such as the toilet).

Repeat as necessary until empty.

If it becomes difficult to remove the fluid using the syringe, call your nurse or physician.
When Should I Call My Doctor or Seek Immediate Care?

**Emergencies**
Call 911 or go to a hospital emergency department if:
- your bandage is soaked through with blood or fluid
- the bandage comes off
- your arms or legs are warm, swollen, red, or painful
- you feel lightheaded or short of breath
- you cough up blood or have chest pain
- it hurts when you breathe or cough

If you go to the hospital ER or are admitted to the hospital, please let us know.

Call your doctor immediately if:
- **you have a fever of 100.4°F (38°C)**
- you have severe pain or swelling at the insertion area
- your wound is red or has pus or a foul odor

Call the Thoracic Center during business hours if you have any questions about your chest tube.

**The Thoracic Center**
Open: Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Phone: 716-845-3167

**After hours**
Call Roswell Park Hospital Main Number
716-845-2300 (Open 24/7).

When you call, our Call Center staff will assist you. If it is determined you need to be seen, we may ask you to come to our Assessment and Treatment Center (ATC). This service is available for patients who have a referral from their Roswell Park provider or the on-call provider. **This is not a walk-in clinic.** The ATC is open 24/7.

*The Express™ Mini 500 is made by Maquet Medical Systems USA. Toll free: 1-800-528-7486*