

Mini Sahara Chest Drainage System - Home Care Instructions



You are ready to go home, but still need your chest tube. A small device, called a Mini Sahara Chest Drainage System, has been placed on the end of your chest tube to help you get better.

The Mini Sahara 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).

Items Needed for Home Use (all items are provided by Roswell Park)

- Mini Sahara Chest Drainage System
- Wound dressings

Securing Your Device



The carrying bag is provided to make it easier for you to walk around. The drainage system fits into the clear carrying bag.

For shoulder placement, slide the buckle through the slots provided on the **sides** of the clear carrying bag.

For waist placement, slide the buckle through the slots on the **back** of the clear carrying bag.

Adjust to desired length.



Wound Dressing

The dressing around your chest tube should be changed **at least** every other day, or as prescribed by your doctor.

Showering/Bathing

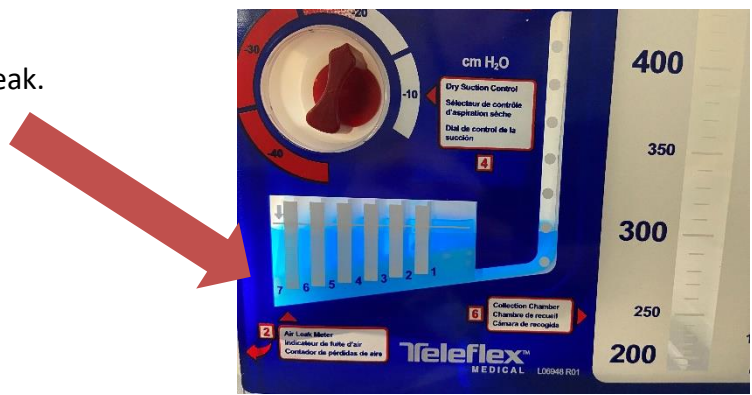
Ask your doctor if it is okay to shower. Showering with a chest tube is **not** advised unless your doctor says it is ok.

Important Message

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

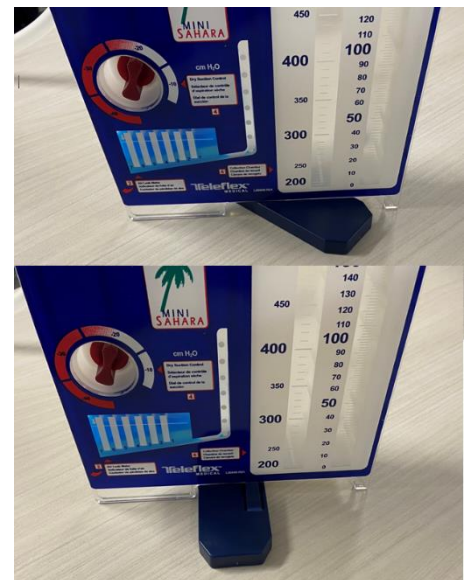
Checking for an Air Leak

The Air Leak Meter will bubble if there is an air leak.



Using the Mini Sahara System

- Keep the Mini Sahara in an upright position and make sure the tubing stays firmly attached to the end of your chest tube. The chest tube should remain below the level of your chest.
- Use the floor stand at the bottom of the Mini Sahara to keep the system upright. **The floor stand swivels out from the bottom of the system.** (see black stand position shown in the pictures)
- Do not allow the drainage system to completely fill with fluid or it may start to leak out.
- If the chamber is close to full, please call the Thoracic Clinic at **716-845-3167** to make arrangements to have the drainage system changed by either coming into to Thoracic Clinic or the Assessment and Treatment Center (ATC).



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, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.), call the Thoracic Center at **716-845-3167**. After hours, call **716-845-2300** and the Call Center staff will assist you. Ask for the thoracic surgeon on call.
- If you have **SHORTNESS OF BREATH** when tube is disconnected, go to the nearest emergency room.
- If you start to see or feel subcutaneous air (swelling or “rice crispies” type popping under the skin) in your chest, arms, neck, or face **go to the closest emergency room.**

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.

Contact Us

Thoracic Center is open Monday through Friday, 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 after hours, the Call Center and nurse triage 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.