

 瑪麗醫院 QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL	Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology	Document No.	OGGO-0510-01-10- (E)
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		Approved by	Gynae-OncologyTeam, QMH
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Discharge Information on Patient with Pigtail Catheter

Introduction :

Pigtail Catheter is commonly used for the drainage of abnormal fluid collection in the lung or abdominal cavity due to various causes. The procedure is done under aseptic technique and local anesthesia by the radiologist, with the catheter inserted to the collection area (pleural or peritoneal space) for drainage of fluid.

Procedure on drainage of fluid at home

1. Perform hand hygiene before drainage
2. Clean spigot area with alcohol wrap, then remove the spigot and connect the catheter to drainage bag
3. Open the stopper of the catheter to start drainage
4. Ensure the catheter insertion site is secured during drainage
5. Close the stopper immediately after drainage is completed. Clean the connection with alcohol wrap then remove the drainage bag and replace the spigot
6. Measure & record the volume and color of the drainage fluid
7. Change the drainage bag immediately if any tear found (the drainage bag can be purchased in medical products company)

Wound care upon discharge :

Community nurse can be arranged for wound dressing twice weekly, change of spigot regularly or help in drainage if necessary

Special information :

Inform medical staff if you have the following symptoms

- Persistent high fever (>100°F or 38°C)
- Signs of infection around the catheter insertion site. e.g. redness, swelling, hotness, pus-like discharge or pain
- If the catheter is dislodged, cover it with aseptic gauze if any. Do not try to reinsert and seek medical advice immediately