

# Interventional Pulmonary and Advanced Diagnostics

## Tunneled Pleural Catheter (TPC) Patient Instructions

- **Your follow up appointment is with TPC team at Norton Thoracic Institute.**

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- Sterile approach is very important when draining the catheter.
- Do not lift, pull or push more than 10 pounds for 14 days after the TPC placement.
- Please keep your appointments for removal of sutures at 10 days and 4 weeks.
- Local pain and discomfort is expected up to 5-7 days after insertion, you can use over the counter pain medication.
- Swelling, redness and tenderness of skin at the site of catheter may represent cellulitis (infection of the skin). Please call your TPC team at Norton Thoracic Institute.
- You may take a shower or sponge bath with the TPC in place. Cover your catheter dressing to protect it from getting wet. Use a waterproof cover such as saran wrap or zip lock bag and secure it with tape.
- Please drain the pleural effusion every other day, do not drain more than one liter of pleural fluid per drainage session.
- If there is sudden increase in your daily drainage by 200 mL on more than two subsequent drainages, please inform the TPC team.
- If you notice gradual decrease in drainage (every other day schedule) of pleural effusion to less than 150 mL and you do not experience shortness of breath or chest pain, please increase the duration between drainage to every second or third day. If you have less than 50 mL drainage on three consecutive drainage attempts and do not experience shortness of breath or chest pain, please call to schedule a visit with the TPC team for possible removal of catheter.
- If you notice sudden decrease in drainage of pleural fluid and feel short of breath, call the TPC team as the catheter may be clogged.
- Fever with chest pain or pressure and worsening shortness of breath should be immediately reported to TPC team.
- Please call the TPC team if there is fluid leakage around the TPC catheter, fracture of the catheter or if the catheter falls out.

Thank you for letting us take care of your needs. Should any question arise, please feel free to contact us for any question not covered in this instruction page.