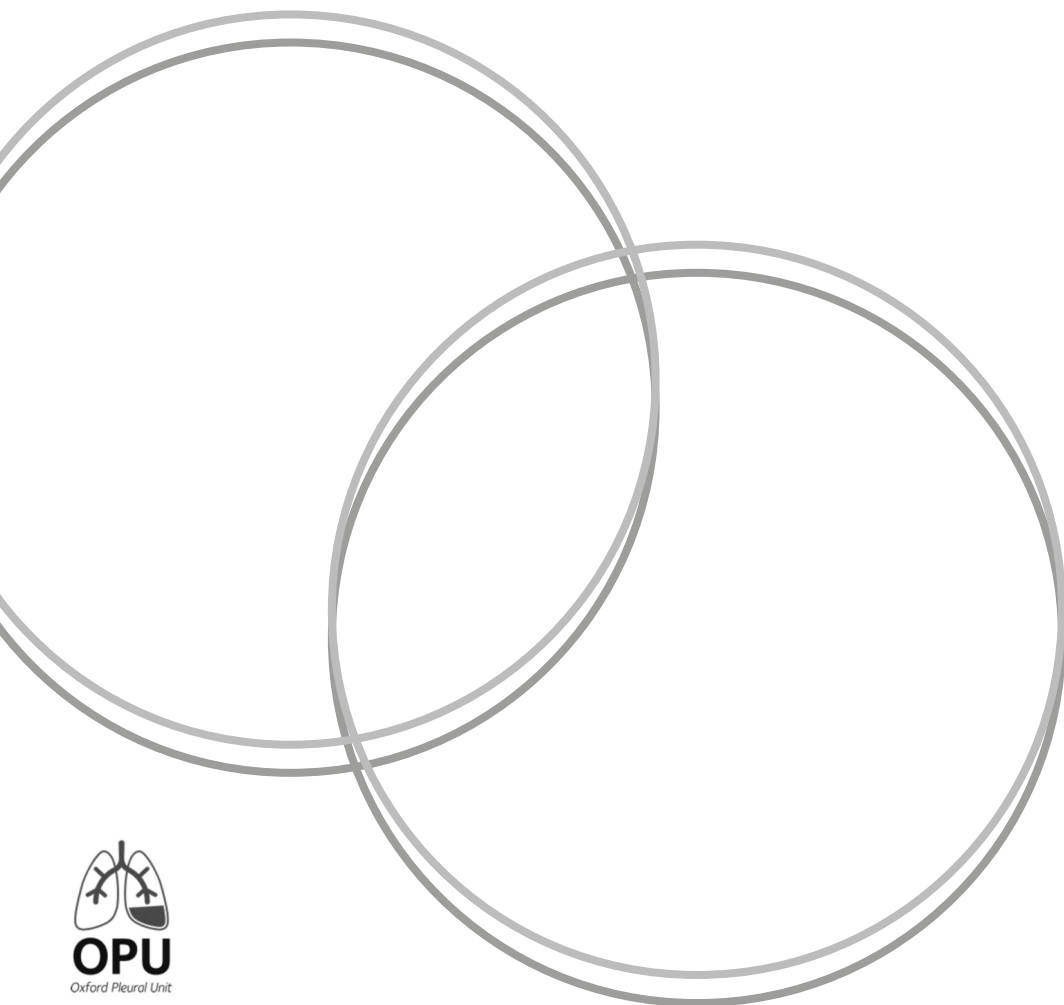


Going home with a chest tube / drain and Atrium Express Mini 500

Information for patients



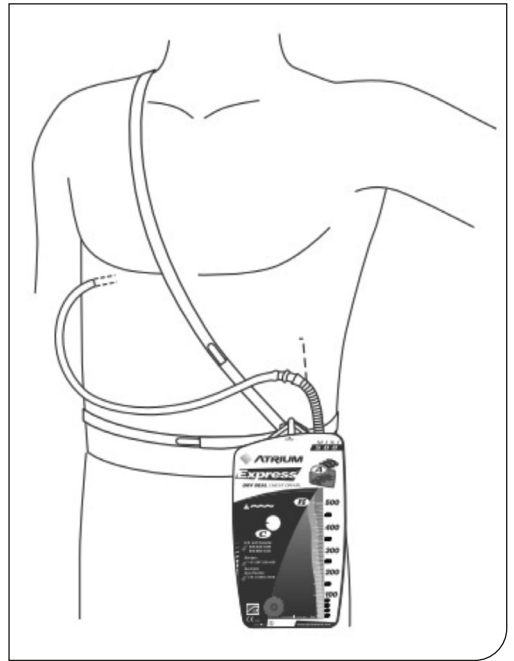
We are sending you home with a **chest drain** and **Atrium Express Mini 500** because you have an ongoing 'air leak' from the lung, which requires continued drainage. In time, this air leak should stop.

The Atrium Express Mini 500 (Atrium 500®) is a small portable chest drainage system that allows you to go home with a chest drain. This lets air and fluid out of the pleural space (but not back in) and allows your lung to fully expand.

Your chest tube will be stitched in to reduce the risk of it falling out, with a waterproof dressing over the top.

How do I take care of the tube and device?

- Keep the Atrium 500® below the level of your chest.
- Never disconnect the Atrium 500® from the chest tube. If the chest tube becomes detached from the Atrium 500®, immediately reconnect it.
- Check the tube for kinks or disconnection if the tube gets pulled or twisted.
- Never clamp the drain – this is essential to allow air to escape from the chest.



- If the fluid drained exceeds 250ml, please go to your closest emergency department.
- **Dial 999 and ask for an emergency 'blue light' ambulance if:**
 - **Your chest tube falls out. Sit comfortably while you wait for them to arrive.**
 - **You have sudden increasing breathlessness, pain or swelling of the skin.**

Showering and bathing

- You should not take baths, go swimming, or go in a hot tub when you have a chest drain in place.
- It is best to wash at a sink.
- Showering is possible but requires you to keep the Atrium 500® device dry and is likely to need the help of a family member. It is essential that the tubing does not become blocked or wet if you shower. It is important that your chest tube dressing is kept dry – a wet dressing encourages infection. If you plan to shower, our nurses can discuss the safest technique.

Follow-up while you have a chest tube and Atrium 500®

While you have an ongoing air leak, we will plan regular reviews with the Pleural Team. This is usually once or twice weekly and occurs in either:

- Respiratory Intervention Service, Theatre Direct Admissions, Level 1, John Radcliffe Hospital
- Ambulatory Assessment Unit (AAU), Level 4, John Radcliffe Hospital

We will tell you where and when to come for review.

As part of your regular review, you will be asked to undergo a chest X-ray and assess whether the air leak has resolved. Once the air leak has resolved, the chest drain will be removed – this is a very straightforward procedure.

What do I do if the Atrium 500® becomes disconnected?

Your Atrium 500® should be connected to your chest tube at all times.

If it comes off your chest tube, follow these steps to reconnect it right away, then call the Pleural Team (see below) or dial 999 if you feel unwell.

- Reconnect the disconnected Atrium 500®.
- Take some slow deep breaths to help get rid of any extra air that may have built up around your lung while it was disconnected.

What should I do if my chest tube comes out?

Dial 999 and ask for an emergency 'blue light' ambulance.

Tell the operator that you have a pneumothorax (collapsed lung) and that your chest tube has come out.

Place a waterproof dressing (like a plaster) over the tube site and sit comfortably.

When should I contact a Healthcare Professional?

Inform the Pleural Team, GP or District Nurse if:

- You have a temperature of 38.0°C or higher.
- The skin around your chest tube is red, inflamed, or feels warm and painful.
- Drainage is coming from around your chest tube insertion site.
- You have pain that isn't eased by normal painkillers.
- More fluid is draining from your chest tube than usual.
- The colour or thickness of the fluid draining changes.

Contact details

If you feel very unwell, have sudden increasing breathlessness, pain or swelling of the skin, dial 999 and ask for an emergency 'blue light' ambulance. Tell the operator that you have a 'chest tube' and an 'Atrium 500® device' to drain a pneumothorax (collapsed lung).

For all other queries, please contact the Pleural Team at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

Pleural Specialist Nurse

Telephone: 07769 285 354

Pleural Medical Team

Telephone: 01865 741 166 and ask for bleep 8112

Telephone: 07768 252 650

Email: pleural.unit@nhs.net

Outside these hours call the hospital switchboard

Telephone: 01865 741 166 and ask for the On-call Respiratory doctor.

Your next appointment

Please go to, John Radcliffe Hospital,
at am/pm on /..... /..... for your chest X-ray.
You will then be seen on..... ward
atam/pm by the doctors.

Further information

If you would like an interpreter, please speak to the department where you are being seen.

Please also tell them if you would like this information in another format, such as:

- Easy Read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronic
- another language.

We have tried to make the information in this leaflet meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They are happy to help.

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Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
www.ouh.nhs.uk/information



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