Chest Tube Dressing Change

• Gather materials:
• 2 -drain sponges according to patient size
• 2 -4x4" gauze sponges
• Chlorhexidine (ChloraPrep) or povidone-iodine swab sticks
• 1 -5x9" Xeroform gauze for Trauma service patients
• 1 -Tape 2"-4"
• Non-sterile gloves
• Sterile gloves

• Wash hands and apply non-sterile gloves
• Remove old dressing.
• Inspect chest tube site for:
  - 1. Redness, discoloration of the skin
  - 2. Type, amount and color of drainage
  - 3. Air leaks
  - 4. Bleeding
  - 5. Condition of sutures

• Open packages and don sterile gloves.
• Cleanse site with chlorhexidine or povidone-iodine swab sticks. Cleanse the first 2” of the chest tube with the antiseptic, starting where it exits the skin. Repeat x2 and allow to dry.
• For Trauma Service patients only- apply Xeroform around the chest tube at the insertion site, making an air-tight seal.

• Apply the split 4x4 gauze dressing/sponges around the chest tube so that the openings do not lie directly over one another.
• Lay two 4x4" gauze sponges over the sponges covering the chest tube.

• Apply tape to create an occlusive dressing.
• Date and time dressing.