**Chest Tubes**

See Policy State: Chest Tube Insertion and Care for further instruction

Keep sterile gauze and tape at bedside in case of disconnection or accidental removal of tube.

**Care of Chest Tube**

1. Assess and document the amount and character of chest tube drainage every 8 hours or more frequently if output is significant.
2. **Suction may be briefly disconnected if patient to be transferred to another unit**. Confirm with physician if patient can be on gravity for transport or ambulation.
3. Do not clamp chest tube while attached to collection device.
4. In case of accidental disconnection clamp tube with slide clamp.
5. In case of accidental removal of tube: Dress the site with sterile gauze, tape on three sides, leave one side untaped to allow air to escape and prevent tension pneumothorax. Contact physician, assess respiratory status and vital signs. If patient becomes in Respiratory Distress call RRT.

