

DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS AFTER THORACENTESIS

You have had a procedure which involved the insertion of a needle into your chest to remove fluid from the space between the lungs and the wall of your chest. This was done to find out the cause of the extra fluid and/or to relieve the symptoms caused by it.

ACTIVITY: Rest the remainder of the day. You may resume normal activity the next day. Avoid any vigorous physical activity for 24 hours.

COMFORT: If you have discomfort or tenderness at the site, you may take your usual/recommended pain medication. Do not take aspirin or aspirin containing products the day of the procedure.

DIET: You may resume your usual diet.

SITE CARE: Keep bandage on for 24 hours. Then you may remove the bandage and shower. You may put on a clean Band-Aid or leave it open to air.

RETURN TO THE NEAREST EMERGENCY ROOM:

- Chest pain/tightness or shortness of breath
- Light-headedness or dizziness (especially when sitting upright or standing)
- Rapid heart rate

CALL YOUR DOCTOR FOR:

- A fever over 101 degrees
- Increased redness, increased swelling, and/or persistent drainage/discomfort around the site

If you have any questions or concerns, please call to speak with the Radiology Nurse or Radiologist at 828-452-8153.

Patient or Authorized Person's Signature: _____ **Date/Time:** _____

Physician or Provider: _____ **Date/Time:** _____

Person providing instructions: _____

**MEDWEST HAYWOOD
DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS
THORACENTESIS**

RAD071 (01/24/11)



DOB:

AGE: