

Malignant Pleural Effusion (MPE) Clinic Referral Form

Please fax the completed referral form to 289-398-1071

For inquiries please call 905-378-4647 Tara RN ext 49139 or Kim RPN 4916

(For ED patients, please see faxed patient face sheet)

Name: _____ DOB (dd/mm/yyyy): _____

Address: _____ OHIP #: _____

_____ Phone Number: _____

_____ Alt. Number: _____

Criteria for referral (At least ONE must be met or the referral may be sent back). Please check appropriate box.

- Symptomatic effusion AND pathology confirming malignancy in pleural fluid.
- Symptomatic effusion highly suspicious to be malignant.
- Other - **Referrals will only be accepted from a Respirologist or after discussion with the Respirologist on call.**

Patient Details (please include last progress note, history and current medication list):

Is the patient on any **anticoagulants/anti-platelet agents**? Yes No

If yes which one _____

*Please ensure your patient has a recent chest x-ray done.

Ref MD (Print): _____ Billing Number: _____

Ref MD (Signature) _____ Date requested): _____

Please fax the completed referral form & Facesheet to 289-398-1071

PLEURAL EFFUSION/PLEURX CATHETER INSERTION

What do I need to know?

A pleural effusion is when there is more than a normal amount of fluid in the space between the lining of the lung and the chest wall. The fluid puts pressure on the lung and makes breathing hard. It may be uncomfortable. It can be managed.

What do I need to watch for?

- trouble breathing
- fast or hard breathing
- tight feeling in chest
- chest pain

What do I do?

Call your physician, or

Call the **Pleural Effusion Clinic: 905-684-7271 ext. 49139**

What is the treatment?

A **PleurX Catheter (tube)** may be put in to drain the fluid from the space between the lung and its lining. This is done while you are awake. You will be in a lying on your side. The area is frozen. Then a needle is put in so the fluid can drain into a bottle. This is done by a physician in the Pleural Effusion Clinic. The tube is tunneled under the skin with a small amount of tubing is left outside the skin. A home care nurse can use that tube to drain fluid at home to keep you comfortable. The outside tubing is covered by a dressing that will be changed by the home care nurse when the fluid is drained.

What do I need to watch for after a PleurX Catheter is put in?

- new cough
- shortness of breath
- redness, swelling, or signs of infection around tube site
- chest pain
- temperature $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ (100°F)

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