

# Patient Information Sheet

## Going home with a Ure-Sil Thora-Vent ambulatory device for pneumothorax

### Introduction

This leaflet will provide you with information on your Thora-vent device and what to do when you are at home. If after reading the information, you have any further questions, please speak to one of the team.

### About your Thora-Vent device

- Your Thora-Vent is a small device placed on the front of your chest to drain air from the chest cavity due to air leak called a pneumothorax.
- It has a one-way valve with a self-sealing port and a small catheter (thin, flexible tube) that lets extra air out of your chest. It allows your lung to fully re-expand.
- The vent is secured to your chest with adhesive wings. It may also be sutured (stitched) in place.

### Your vent is made up of 2 parts:

1. **The chamber** which is the main part of your vent. Within the chamber, there is a red signal diaphragm that tells your healthcare provider the status of air leak.

When the diaphragm stays in the downward position for about 1 hour or longer, your lung may have fully re-expanded.

2. **Adhesive wings.** There are 2 adhesive wings which are located on both sides of the chamber and hold it in place (see figure 1 below).

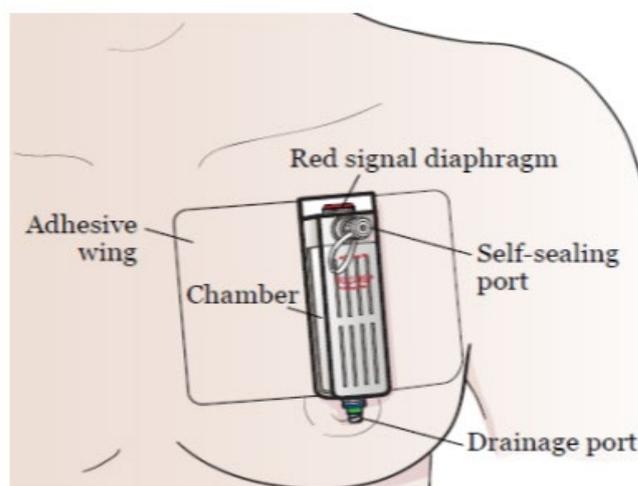


Figure 1. Your Thora-Vent

## How to care for your ambulatory device

- Your Thora-Vent should be in direct contact with your chest.
- Keep your Thora-Vent device dry at all times. When having a wash direct any water away from the vent.
- If the adhesive wings start to separate from your skin, use tape to secure them in place. Do not put tape on the chamber or red diaphragm.
- **You can do** mild exercises, such as walking and climbing stairs as this will help you gain strength and feel better.
- **You can** also do breathing exercises to help your lung re-expand.

Please call the **pleural clinic** on **01782 675353** if:

- **The catheter (tube) is visible** including the part going into your skin. No part of the catheter should be visible.
- **Your vent moves out of place or the device becomes separated from your skin.** Do not change the position or remove your vent at any time yourself.
- **Your vent drains fluid into chamber.**
- You have a fever (38 C° or higher).
- Your red signal diaphragm is in the downward position for 1 hour or longer.
- You have new chest pain or shortness of breath.
- The area near the insertion site becomes red, puffy or feels warm and painful when you touch it.
- Your vent is collecting blood or other fluid.

## Activities to avoid while ambulatory device is in place

- **Do not do any** strenuous exercise or sports while Thora-Vent device is in place.
- **Do not** fly.
- **Do not** lift anything heavy.
- **Do not** take bath, go swimming, or submerge yourself in water.

## Contact details

**Pleural clinic** tel:01782 675353      Pleural Clinic Co-ordinator tel: 01782 671247  
Monday to Friday between 9 am and 5pm

### Out of hours

Call NHS 111 or 999 in an emergency or go to your nearest Accident and Emergency Department