

## Discharge Instructions - Thoracentesis

### You have received the following Anaesthetic that is checked ( )

- Local Anesthetic** - An injection of anesthesia (freezing) to numb a small area at the site of your biopsy/procedure. It is common to feel mild or temporary numbness or tingling around the site.
  
- IV Sedation** - Medications given through your intravenous to relax you and decrease anxiety while you are still awake. It is common to have trouble remembering what happened during your procedure, and/or feel tired for the rest of the day. You must return home with a responsible adult who will remain with you overnight. You should not take public transit after the procedure.  
**With IV sedation, do not drive, use machinery or power tools or make important legal or financial decisions for the next 24 hours.**

### Diet

There are no diet restrictions. Avoid alcohol for 24 hours.

### Activity

Get plenty of rest for 24 hours after the procedure. Avoid strenuous exercise, lifting objects over 5 pounds, or **anything that will make you short of breath.**

### Dressing

Keep your bandage dry. Replace bandage as needed if it becomes soiled or wet. Remove bandage after 24 hours if no oozing. You may bathe or shower the day after your procedure, after the bandage is removed.

### Medication

Avoid taking medication containing aspirin or blood thinners for 24 hours after your procedure unless otherwise directed. Take pain medication, as prescribed, or you may take Acetaminophen (Tylenol®) (if no allergy) 1 – 2 tablets every 4 – 6 hours as needed for pain, up to a maximum of 4,000 mg in 24 hours. You may take your next pain medication at: \_\_\_\_\_.

### Follow Up

Follow-up with your doctor as directed.

## CALL YOUR DOCTOR DURING OFFICE HOURS, OR GO TO THE NEAREST EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT OR CALL 911 IF YOU HAVE:

1. Fever over 38.5°C or 101.3°F, or shakes and chills
2. Increasing pain, redness, swelling, bleeding or bruising at the procedure site
3. Chest pain, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or heart rate over 100 bpm
4. Dizziness, light headedness or confusion, exhaustion, extreme weakness, sweating, pale/blue skin
5. Persistent nausea, vomiting or coughing blood