	Trauma Services	No. 4040
	Title: Chest Tube- Shared	Page: 1 of 2 Effective Date: 12/05/2022

**PURPOSE:**

Provide guidelines for managing and discontinuing pleural chest tubes

**POLICY STATEMENT:**

Pleural chest tubes are provided when necessary for management of hemothorax, pneumothorax, or hydrothorax.

**ENTITIES AFFECTED BY THIS POLICY (SCOPE):** WPP Trauma/Surgery

**WHO SHOULD READ THIS POLICY:**

This policy shall be read by department supervisors, managers, directors, and administrators. Furthermore, any individual considering issuing, revising, assisting in the drafting of, or archiving a policy.

**PROCEDURES:**

- I. Pleural chest tube inserted and placed to 20 cm suction
  - a. Consider utilization of tube size less than or equal to 28 french.
- II. Chest x-ray to verify placement.
  - a. If tube is nonfunctional, consider reposition and repeat chest x-ray
  - b. If tube is in place, continue suction
- III. Repeat Chest x-ray in greater than or equal to 24 hours
  - a. If air leak is present, continue suction and repeat chest x-ray in 24 hours.
  - b. If no air leak is present, place to water seal. Repeat chest x-ray in 6 hours.
- IV. If no pneumothorax present and output <150-200 ml serous drainage, discontinue chest tube or obtain follow up imaging.
  - a. Repeat chest x-ray in 6 hours.
  - b. If pneumothorax present, consider reinsertion of chest tube.

**Origination date:** 03/30/2017

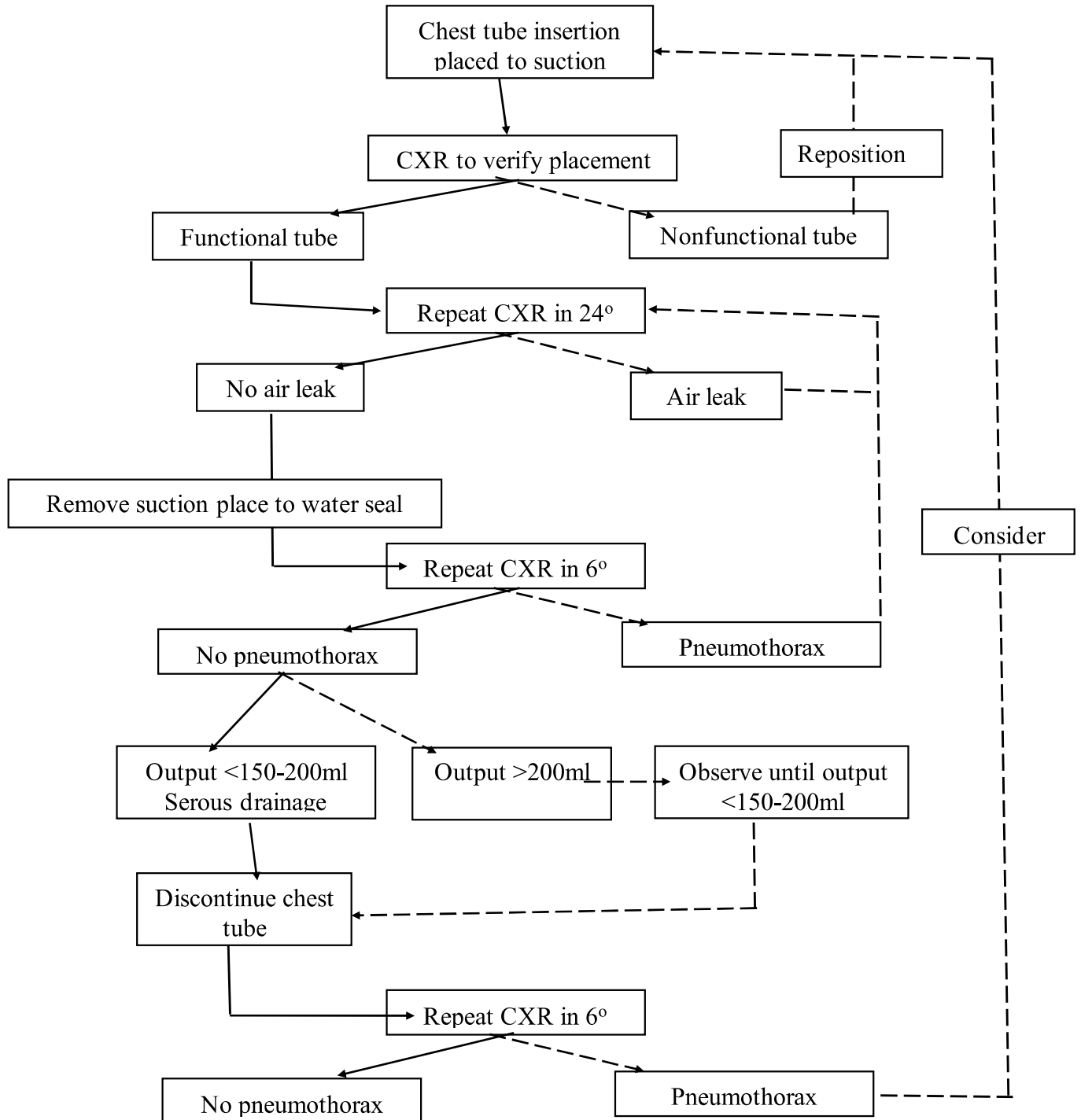
**Prepared by:** MGR, TRAUMA PROGRAM

**Approved by:** MED DIR, TRAUMA, PHYSICIAN, SURGEON

**Reviewed:** 12/05/2022

**Revised:** 12/05/2022

**Printed copies are for reference only. Please refer to the electronic copy for the latest version.**



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