DO NOT FORGET · THE SHORT CHECKLIST

Chest drain insertion

Indication, safe triangle, technique, connection and aftercare

EM Orbit

Patient reference	Date	Time	Completed by

The 3 steps that must not be missed

- [ ] BEFORE
  Indication confirmed: tension (after decompression), haemothorax, large or symptomatic pneumothorax, empyema, effusion needing drainage
  Never insert a trocar drain.

- [ ] INSERT
  Safe triangle: 4th–5th intercostal space, anterior to the mid-axillary line, above the rib, arm abducted

- [ ] AFTER
  Never clamp a bubbling drain; keep the bottle below chest level; observations and drain output charted

The short list: an aid to memory, not the whole procedure. The full checklist is at the QR code. It does not replace your local protocol or your clinical judgement. Source: BTS pleural disease guideline 2023 · ATLS 10th.