DO NOT FORGET · THE SHORT CHECKLIST



Chest drain insertion by blunt dissection

Open (blunt dissection) insertion of an intercostal drain in the safe triangle for traumatic pneumothorax, haemothorax or other pleural collections needing large-bore drainage.

EM Orbit

Patient reference	Date	Time	Completed by

The 5 steps that must not be missed

- [ ] BEFORE
Use ultrasound to guide the site whenever a drain is inserted for pleural fluid
Blind insertion for fluid is associated with organ puncture.

- [ ] BEFORE
If air or fluid cannot be aspirated with the anaesthetic needle, do not proceed at that site; reassess with imaging

- [ ] DURING
Stay on the upper border of the rib to avoid the neurovascular bundle under the rib above

- [ ] DURING
Never use the trocar to insert the drain

- [ ] AFTER
Never clamp a drain that is bubbling
Clamping a bubbling drain can cause tension pneumothorax.

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.