DO NOT FORGET · THE SHORT CHECKLIST



Pleural aspiration

Needle aspiration of the pleural space under ultrasound guidance, for diagnosis of an effusion, relief of breathlessness from a large effusion, or treatment of a primary spontaneous pneumothorax.

EM Orbit

Patient reference	Date	Time	Completed by

The 3 steps that must not be missed

- [ ] BEFORE
  Use ultrasound guidance for every pleural fluid aspiration; mark the site immediately before the procedure with the patient in the same position
- [ ] DURING
  Stay on the upper border of the rib to avoid the neurovascular bundle
- [ ] DURING
  Stop at 1.5 L in a single aspiration, or earlier if the patient develops chest tightness, cough, pain or vasovagal symptoms

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.