



## Post Procedure Care

### ● Pleurocentesis

Your chest may be sore where the doctor put the needle or catheter into your skin (the procedure site). This usually gets better after a day or two. You can go back to work or your normal activities as soon as you feel up to it.

If a large amount of pleural fluid was removed during the procedure, you will probably be able to breathe more easily.

#### How can you care for yourself at home?

- Rest when you feel tired. Getting enough sleep will help you recover.
- Avoid strenuous activities, such as bicycle riding, jogging, weightlifting, or aerobic exercise, until your doctor says it is okay.
- You may shower. Do not take a bath until the procedure site has healed, or until your doctor tells you it is okay.
- Ask your doctor when you can drive again.
- You may need to take 1 or 2 days off from work. It depends on the type of work you do and how you feel.
- Wash the area daily with warm, soapy water, and pat it dry. Don't use hydrogen peroxide or alcohol, which may delay healing. You may cover the area with a gauze bandage if it weeps or rubs against clothing. Change the bandage every day.
- Keep the area clean and dry.
- Follow-up care is a key part of your treatment and safety

#### When should you call for help?

- Call 000 anytime you think you may need emergency care. For example, call if:
- You passed out (lost consciousness).
- You have severe trouble breathing.
- You have sudden chest pain and shortness of breath, or you cough up blood.

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14/21 South Coolum Road,  
Coolum Beach QLD 4573

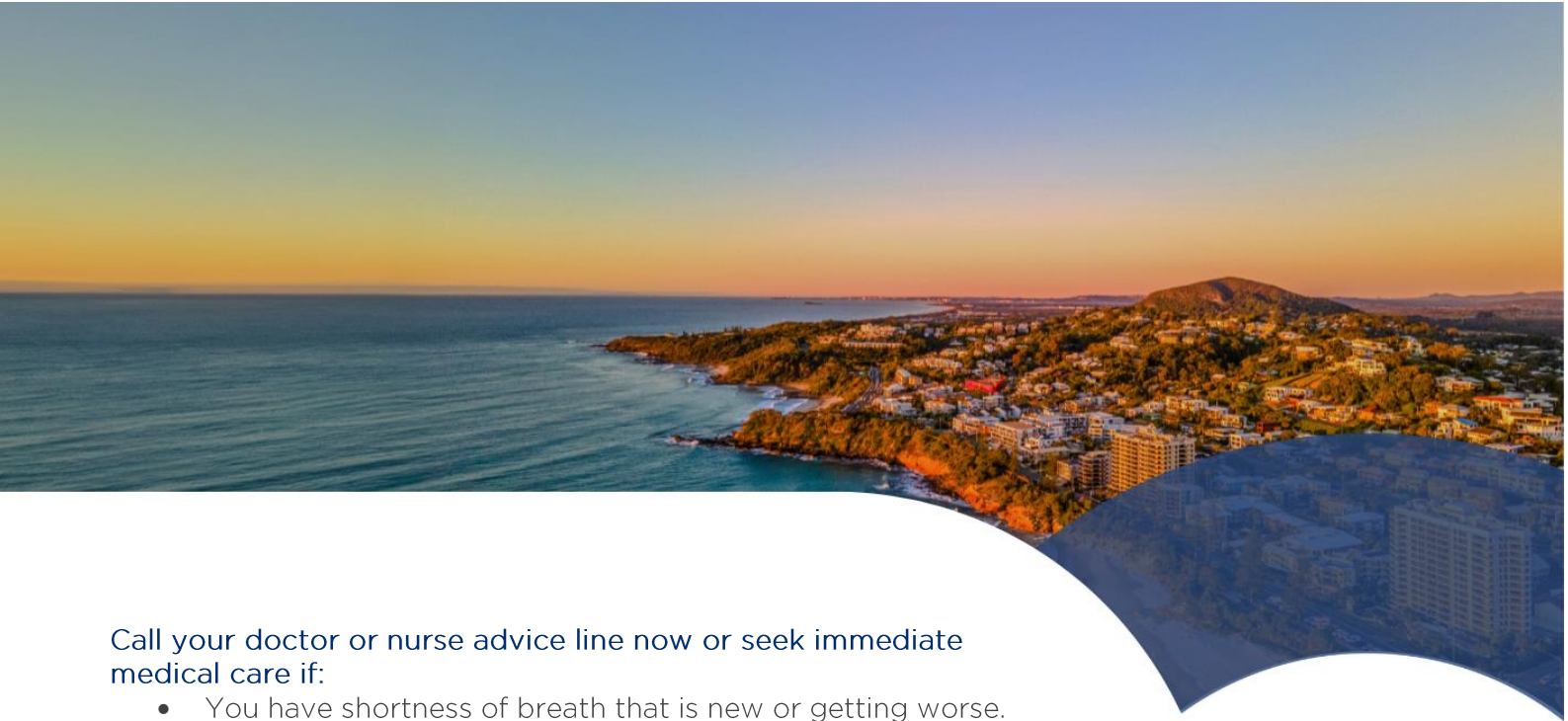
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**Call your doctor or nurse advice line now or seek immediate medical care if:**

- You have shortness of breath that is new or getting worse.
- You have new or worse pain in your chest, especially when you take a deep breath.
- You are sick to your stomach or cannot keep fluids down.
- You have a fever over 38°C.
- Bright red blood has soaked through the bandage over your procedure site.
- You have signs of infection, such as:
  - Increased pain, swelling, warmth, or redness.
  - Red streaks leading from the procedure site.
  - Pus draining from the procedure site.
  - Swollen lymph nodes in your neck, armpits, or groin.
  - A fever.
  - You cough up a lot more mucus than normal, or your mucus changes colour.
- Watch closely for changes in your health and contact your doctor if you have any problems.

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