



QR code for mobile view

**Inpatient to discharge**

Patient ready for transfer from CICU to 4 Sutherland

- Blue Team receives hand-off from CICU
- Patient assessed by Blue Team in CICU and meets family

Patient is transferred to 4 Sutherland

**Vitals**  
**Wean oxygen**  
◦ Room air or home O<sub>2</sub>  
**Chest tube**  
◦ Monitor output  
◦ Remove chest tubes  
**Heart rhythm**  
◦ Monitor and remove pacing wires

**Diet**  
**Encourage PO intake** - advance as tolerated  
**Initiate bowel regimen**  
**PRN ondansetron for nausea/vomiting**  
◦ 0.1 mg/kg/dose, max dose 4 mg

**Pain Management**  
**Ketorolac**  
◦ q6hr > 6 months  
◦ Transition to PO ibuprofen 5-10 mg/kg/dose  
**Acetaminophen PO PRN**  
◦ 10-15 mg/kg/dose  
◦ Scheduled for 48hrs  
**Opioids**  
◦ First line: PO oxycodone  
◦ Second line: IV morphine  
**Erector Spinae Plane Catheter**

**Physical Activity**  
**Holding**  
◦ Caregivers to hold infants  
**Ambulation**  
◦ In patients that can walk  
**Physical Therapy**  
◦ Consult for older patients if needed

**Diuretics**  
**IV Initially**  
◦ Transition to enteral once chest tubes removed  
**BMPs**  
◦ Trended  
◦ Replace electrolytes as needed  
◦ Monitored daily while on IV diuretics; when on oral diuretics and WNLs- stop monitoring  
**Kidney Function**  
◦ Monitored (same as BMPs)

**Chest Tube Removal Criteria**  
(determined at 7am rounds by surgeon)  
< 10 ml/kg in 24hrs  
< 5 ml/kg in 12 hrs  
< 200 ml for older children/teens/young adults

**Pacing wires** unlikely to be on Thoracotomy patients

**Erector Spinae Plane Catheter**  
Pain team to follow if catheter in place

**Discharge Readiness**  
**Discharge Testing**  
◦ Post-op EKG and ECHO  
◦ CXR s/p removal of chest tubes  
**Discharge Teaching**  
◦ Post-op care instructions reviewed by APRN w/family  
◦ Provided hand-out and Get Well Network video  
**Incision Care**  
◦ APRN completes chest tube site care w/family

D/C day determined day before discharge  
Anticipate to d/c by noon the following day

**Discharge home**  
Follow-up appointments arranged with:  
• CV surgery  
• Outpatient cardiologist

Algorithms:  
• [Prior to Surgery](#)  
• [Intraop - Bypass](#)  
• [Intraop - Thoracotomy](#)  
• [CICU](#)

**Abbreviations:**  
APRN = Advance Practice Registered Nurse  
CICU = Cardiac Intensive Care Unit  
CV = cardiovascular  
WNLs = Within normal limits