

CLINICAL PROCEDURE SAFETY

LEVEL 2 PROCEDURES – CASE STUDIES

The case studies are provided as a resource for health care facilities to use during implementation of the Clinical Procedure Safety PD2014_036.

Each case study is based on an incident reported to the Incident Information Management System (IIMS) and the action required is based on requirements from the Clinical Procedure Safety PD2014_036.

Case 1

Essential imaging reviewed

An elderly patient was diagnosed with right sided pleural effusion.

The respiratory consultant and registrar agreed that aspiration of fluid from the right lung was indicated.

Prior to the procedure the x-ray was checked at a distance from the bed. The nurse then positioned the patient and local anaesthetic was administered by the registrar. The registrar did not aspirate any fluid.

On review, the nurse discovered that the needle had been inserted into the wrong side. The patient suddenly coughed and their oxygen saturation dropped to 85%. Supplemental oxygen was given but the oxygen saturation level continued to drop.

A MET call was made and the patient was transferred to ICU where a large left haemo-pneumothorax was diagnosed and treated. The right sided effusion was treated with an intercostal catheter.

ACTION REQUIRED

Before commencing a procedure, review essential imaging:

- The proceduralist, in conjunction with assisting proceduralist/s must verify that the imaging data matches the site of the procedure.
 - Verify that images are for the correct side of the body and labelled with the patient's name and date of birth.
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