

Tunneled Indwelling Pleural catheters (IPC)

What is a **tunneled indwelling pleural catheter**?

Answer: Soft silicone tube that allows people to better manage the shortness of breath from recurrent malignant pleural effusions safely at home. IPCs are used to reduce the symptoms a person feels when fluid builds up in the space between the lung and chest wall

What are some catheter related problems?

- Infection
- Catheter blockage
- Chest pain (up to 35% with placement, sometime can occur when fluid is drained too quickly)
- Catheter tract metastases
- Catheter dislodgment

How do I tell which **brand** of IPC my patient has?

- Review medical records
- Evaluate whether the brand name is still visible on catheter tubing
- Look at adapter where the drainage system should connect

PleurX

Aspira

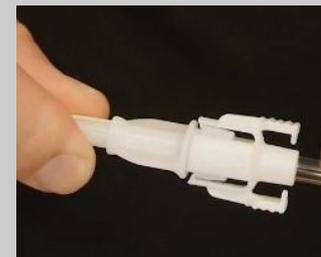
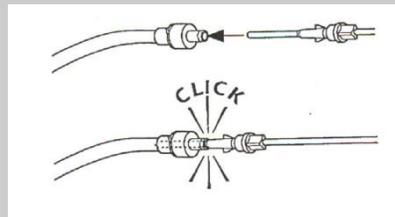
Valve



Access tip



Connection



Still unsure?

Option: Connect with interventional pulmonologist on call (@“HFH Pulmonology Interventional 1st call” on HALO/Symplr) and send a picture of the end of the catheter to troubleshoot brand name

My patient has an **ASPIRA** IPC?

- **Do not** drain with PleurX drainage kit 
- Perform standard thoracentesis if needed 