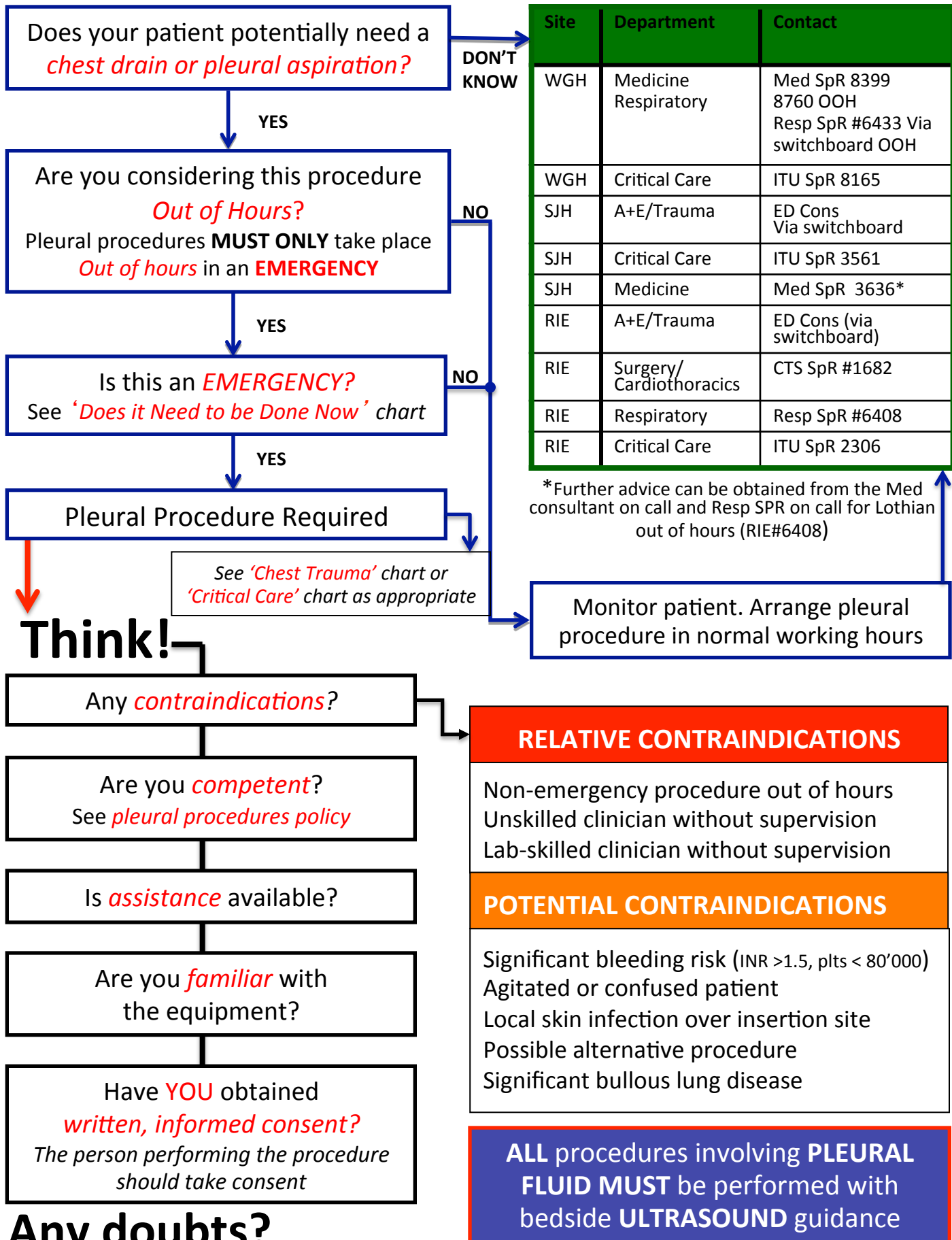


# Pleural Procedures Clinical Decision Pathway



Site	Department	Contact
WGH	Medicine Respiratory	Med SpR 8399 8760 OOH Resp SpR #6433 Via switchboard OOH
WGH	Critical Care	ITU SpR 8165
SJH	A+E/Trauma	ED Cons Via switchboard
SJH	Critical Care	ITU SpR 3561
SJH	Medicine	Med SpR 3636*
RIE	A+E/Trauma	ED Cons (via switchboard)
RIE	Surgery/ Cardiothoracics	CTS SpR #1682
RIE	Respiratory	Resp SpR #6408
RIE	Critical Care	ITU SpR 2306

\*Further advice can be obtained from the Med consultant on call and Resp SPR on call for Lothian out of hours (RIE#6408)

See 'Chest Trauma' chart or 'Critical Care' chart as appropriate

Monitor patient. Arrange pleural procedure in normal working hours

## Think!

- Any **contraindications**?
- Are you **competent**?  
See *pleural procedures policy*
- Is **assistance** available?
- Are you **familiar** with the equipment?
- Have **YOU** obtained **written, informed consent**?  
The person performing the procedure should take consent

### RELATIVE CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Non-emergency procedure out of hours
- Unskilled clinician without supervision
- Lab-skilled clinician without supervision

### POTENTIAL CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Significant bleeding risk (INR >1.5, plts < 80'000)
- Agitated or confused patient
- Local skin infection over insertion site
- Possible alternative procedure
- Significant bullous lung disease

**ALL** procedures involving **PLEURAL FLUID** MUST be performed with bedside **ULTRASOUND** guidance

**Any doubts?**  
**STOP** and **Seek Advice**

Remember to document the procedure  
See 'TRAK pleural procedures' guidance