**Interventional Pulmonology**

**Thoracentesis: Discharge Patient Information**

You have had a procedure called a thoracentesis. A small tube (or catheter) was threaded into your chest to drain fluid and then removed.

You will have a chest x-ray following the thoracentesis to check for a complication and to see how the lung is expanding. The doctor will examine the fluid and will send the fluid for laboratory testing. The results of the lab tests take about seven days. These will be sent to the doctor who referred you, your primary care physician and/or discussed at your follow-up appointment.

*Please follow these instructions as you recover today:*

* Rest today. You may go back to your usual activities tomorrow.
* You may eat and drink whatever you like.
* Please keep the bandage over the area dry today. You may remove it tomorrow.
* You may shower tomorrow.
* If you have bleeding or drainage from the site, hold pressure over the area with a clean washcloth. If the bleeding does not stop, get help right away.

**Please call our office at 617-632-8252 with any of the following occur. In any emergency, such as new or ongoing chest pain, or severe shortness of breath, call 911.**

* Worsening shortness of breath
* Cough up blood
* Chest or back pain
* Redness or swelling at the site, or bleeding that does not stop with pressure
* A temperature of 101 or more