THORACENTESIS

Updated
8/31/2026

Cerner EMR Order Name	Dept Order Entry Order Name
IR Thoracentesis w/ US Guidance	IR Thoracentesis w/ US Guidance

For Providers

- **Need to hold blood thinners or other meds:** no
- **Need to be NPO:** no
- **Need blood work:** not routinely checked *(if checked - platelets ≥20k and INR ≤3.0)*
- **Receive moderate sedation:** no (just local anesthetic)
- **Routine pleural fluid labs:**
  - Riverside, Southside, St Johns - cell count w/diff body fluid, LDH body fluid, glucose body fluid, protein body fluid, body fluid culture, cytology body fluid
  - Clay - cell count w/diff body fluid, pH body fluid, albumin body fluid, LDH body fluid, glucose body fluid, protein body fluid, amylase body fluid, cholesterol body fluid, body fluid culture, fungal culture, AFB culture, cytology body fluid

For Schedulers

- Requirements in **For Provider** section also apply.
- **Need imaging/radiologist review:** no
- **Need H&P:** no
- **Need a driver:** yes
- **Need an IV:** no
- **Need bed in Short Stay / PACU:**
  - Riverside & Southside - 1 hr prior to appointment
  - Clay & St Johns - 2 hrs prior to appointment
- **Arrival time:**
  - Riverside - 1 hr prior to appointment
  - Southside, Clay & St Johns - 2 hrs prior to appointment
- **Stay after procedure:** approximately 30 mins after procedure to allow for chest radiograph
- **Rads that do procedure:** Agrait (MA), Byra (BY), Carter (CA), Cohen (DC), Combs (JC), Edwards (JE), Hoffman (RH), Howard (JH), Jurasic (JU), Padula (PA), Parsons (CP), Rezaei (AR), Roth (NR), Sherard (DS)
- Order needs to specify side and specify diagnostic versus therapeutic thoracentesis.
- If for diagnostic thoracentesis, the order needs to specify what fluid labs are needed.

Southside Scheduling Notes

- Thoracentesis can be double booked with another IR procedure in given time slot.

Clay Scheduling Notes

- Current outpatient paracentesis/thoracentesis slots: 8:00 am, 10:00 am and 1:00 pm.