Pleurisy

Pleurisy is an inflammation and swelling of the lining of the lungs. It usually is the result of an underlying infection or other disease. Because of this inflammation, it hurts to breathe. It is aggravated by coughing or deep breathing. The primary goal in treating pleurisy is to diagnose and treat the condition that caused it.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Only take over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort, or fever as directed by your caregiver.
- If medications which kill germs (*antibiotics*) were prescribed, take the entire course. Even if you are feeling better, you need to take them.
- Use a cool mist vaporizer to help loosen secretions. This is so the secretions can be coughed up more easily.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF:

- An oral temperature above 102° F (38.9° C) develops, or as your caregiver suggests.
- Your pain is not controlled with medication or is increasing.
- You have an increase in pus like (*purulent*) secretions brought up with coughing.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You have blue or dark lips, fingernails, or toenails.
- You begin coughing up blood.
- You have increased difficulty breathing.
- You have continuing pain unrelieved by medicine or lasting more than one week.
- You have pain that radiates into your neck, arms, or jaw.
- You develop increased shortness of breath or wheezing.
- You develop fever, rash, vomiting, fainting, or other serious complaints.

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