Pneumothorax or Hemothorax

HD Unstable

Absence of breath sounds, crepitus, tracheal deviation, respiratory compromise

HD Stable

CXR: PTX

Symptomatic

Repeat CXR in 24 hrs

Asymptomatic

1-1.5L or hemodynamic instability with continued 200 mL/hr output

PTX Resolved
HD Stable

Output < 1L, <200 mL/hr x 4 hrs

CXR with persistent opacity OR initial CT Chest has persistent HTX with chest tube in place

Respiratory compromise

CT Chest

If non-specific findings but persistent PTX and/or air leak POD #3: Bronchoscopy or VATS

No Respiratory compromise

CT Chest

Hemothorax

Output < 1L, <200 mL/hr x 4 hrs

CT Chest within 48 hrs: If (+) retained hemothorax

VATS or intrapleural thrombolytic

Mowery et al. J Trauma 2011