



SIERRA-SACRAMENTO VALLEY EMS AGENCY PROGRAM POLICY

REFERENCE NO. 1110-F

SUBJECT: INFREQUENTLY USED SKILLS – VERIFICATION OF MAINTENANCE

NEEDLE CRICOTHYROTOMY ANNUAL SKILLS VERIFICATION (ADULT & PEDIATRIC)

NAME _____ DATE _____

ALS AGENCY _____ EVALUATOR _____

OBJECTIVE: The candidate will demonstrate the ability to correctly establish an airway by performing a needle cricothyrotomy.

EQUIPMENT: Cricothyrotomy manikin, 12 or 14 gauge over-the-needle catheter, 10 ml syringe, alcohol wipe or recognized antiseptic agent, tape, jet insufflation device or ENK flow modulator, appropriate PPE.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA AND CONDITIONS: The candidate will be presented with a cricothyrotomy manikin. The candidate will correctly establish an airway by performing a needle cricothyrotomy and properly ventilate the patient.

EVENT	DOES	DOES NOT
1. States Indications <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extensive orofacial injuries that make orotracheal intubation impossible• Complete airway obstruction with inability to remove foreign body by other methods		
2. States Contraindications <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Age < 3 yrs or estimated weight < 15 kg• Conscious patient• Moving ambulance• Pt has midline neck hematoma or massive subcutaneous emphysema		
3. States or demonstrates the use of appropriate PPE		
4. Checks / prepares equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12 or 14 gage over-the-needle catheter with 10 ml syringe attached• Jet Insufflation Device or ENK Flow Modulator properly connected to an oxygen source		
5. Stabilizes the larynx using the thumb and middle finger of one hand		
6. Uses the other hand to locate the correct insertion site – cricothyroid membrane		
7. Inserts the needle downward through the midline of the membrane at a 45 – 60 degree angle toward the patients carina while applying negative pressure to the syringe during insertion		
8. Verifies that the needle has entered the trachea by the ability to aspirate air into the syringe		
9. Advances the catheter over the needle toward the carina. Removes and properly disposes of the needle and syringe		

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EVENT	DOES	DOES NOT
10. Stabilizes the hub of the catheter to prevent accidental dislodgement		
11. Attaches the oxygen supply tubing to the catheter and provides ventilation using appropriate inspiratory to expiratory ratio: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:4 seconds - jet insufflation device • 4:6 - ENK Flow Modulator 		
12. Verifies proper placement by the observance of chest rise and fall (jet insufflation device only) / auscultation of lung sounds and the absence of subcutaneous emphysema		