



# SIERRA-SACRAMENTO VALLEY EMS AGENCY PROGRAM POLICY

REFERENCE NO. 1110-H

## SUBJECT: INFREQUENTLY USED SKILLS – VERIFICATION OF MAINTENANCE

### NEEDLE CHEST DECOMPRESSION ANNUAL SKILLS VERIFICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ALS AGENCY \_\_\_\_\_ EVALUATOR \_\_\_\_\_

**OBJECTIVE:** The candidate will demonstrate the ability to correctly decompress a tension pneumothorax.

**EQUIPMENT:** Decompression manikin or simulated chest, Minimum 14ga x 2” catheter, stethoscope, one way valve, tape, alcohol wipe or recognized antiseptic agent, appropriate PPE.

**PERFORMANCE CRITERIA AND CONDITIONS:** The candidate will be presented with a decompression manikin or simulated chest and will correctly demonstrate the ability to decompress a tension pneumothorax.

| EVENT   | DOES | DOES NOT |
|---|------|----------|
| <b>1. States the indications for Needle Decompression:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Unstable <b>and</b> decreased or absent breath sounds on one side of chest</li></ul>   |      |          |
| <b>2. States the approved sites for Needle Decompression:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Anterior – 2<sup>nd</sup> intercostals space, mid-clavicular line – preferred site</li><li>Lateral – 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> intercostals space, mid-axillary line (must be above the anatomic nipple line) – alternate site</li></ul> |      |          |
| <b>3. States the minimum catheter size required for Needle Decompression:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Minimum 14 ga x 2” catheter</li></ul>   |      |          |
| <b>4. States the number of attempts allowed without obtaining voice orders from a base hospital:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Two attempts only on the affected side</li></ul>   |      |          |
| <b>5. States or demonstrates the use of PPE</b>   |      |          |
| <b>6. Identifies the appropriate landmarks for placement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Able to locate both preferred and alternate sites</li></ul>  |      |          |
| <b>7. Prepares the area using aseptic technique</b>   |      |          |
| <b>8. Removes the end cap from the catheter (may attach syringe)</b>  |      |          |
| <b>9. Inserts the needle into the skin at a 90° angle just over the superior border of the rib</b>  |      |          |
| <b>10. Advances the catheter until a gush of air is heard &amp; air is freely aspirated</b>   |      |          |
| <b>11. Removes the needle and leaves the catheter in place</b>  |      |          |
| <b>12. Attaches a one-way valve</b>   |      |          |
| <b>13. Secures the catheter / tubing to the chest wall</b>  |      |          |
| <b>14. Rechecks breath sounds and closely monitors cardio-respiratory status</b>  |      |          |