



Infrequently Used Skills Verification Checklist Needle Thoracostomy

1110-G

Name:		Date:	
Provider Agency:		Evaluator:	
Objective: Describe the indications/contraindications for needle thoracostomy and demonstrate the ability to proficiently perform the procedure.			
Equipment: Appropriate PPE, thoracostomy manikin or simulated chest, Minimum 14ga x 3.25" catheter designed for needle decompression, stethoscope, stopcock or one way valve, tape, antiseptic agent, tape.			
Performance Criteria: The individual will be required to describe the indications/contraindications for needle thoracostomy and proficiently perform the procedure on a manikin or simulated chest.			
Step	Description	Does	Does Not
1	Verbalizes/demonstrates use of appropriate PPE		
2	Verbalizes indications for needle thoracostomy (either of the following): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suspected tension pneumothorax with absent or diminished breath sounds and at least one of the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Combined hypotension (SBP < 90) and SpO2 < 94%○ Penetrating injury to the thorax• Traumatic cardiac arrest with suspected tension pneumothorax		
3	Verbalizes minimum catheter size required for procedure (14 ga x 3.25")		
4	Verbalizes that only two (2) attempts are allowed on affected side(s) without base/modified base hospital contact		
5	Verbalizes/identifies approved needle thoracostomy sites (any of the following): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mid-clavicular line in the 2nd intercostal space• Mid-axillary line in the 4th or 5th intercostal space (above anatomic nipple line)• Anterior axillary line in the 5th intercostal space (above anatomic nipple line)		
6	Prepares site using aseptic technique		
7	Removes end cap from catheter and attaches empty 10 mL syringe		
8	Inserts needle with syringe attached into skin at a 90° angle just over the superior border of the rib		
9	Advances catheter until air is freely aspirated		
10	If using a 3.25" length catheter, advances catheter over the needle until catheter hub rests against the skin		
11	Removes syringe and needle and leaves catheter in place		
12	Attaches stopcock or one-way valve and secures catheter/tubing		
13	Rechecks breath sounds and closely monitors patient status		