



## Infrequently Used Skills Verification Checklist Needle Thoracostomy

**1110-G**

Name:	Date:		
Provider Agency:	Evaluator:		
<b>Objective:</b> Describe the indications/contraindications for needle thoracostomy and demonstrate the ability to proficiently perform the procedure.			
<b>Equipment:</b> 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.			
<b>Performance Criteria:</b> 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"> <li>• Suspected tension pneumothorax with absent or diminished breath sounds and at least one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Combined hypotension (SBP &lt;90) and SpO2 &lt;94%</li> <li>○ Penetrating injury to the thorax</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Traumatic cardiac arrest with suspected tension pneumothorax</li> </ul>		
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"> <li>• Mid-clavicular line in the 2<sup>nd</sup> intercostal space</li> <li>• Mid-axillary line in the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> intercostal space (above anatomic nipple line)</li> <li>• Anterior axillary line in the 5<sup>th</sup> intercostal space (above anatomic nipple line)</li> </ul>		
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		