



Infrequently Used Skills Verification Checklist Needle Cricothyrotomy

910-F

Name:	Date:		
Provider Agency:	Evaluator:		
Objective: Describe the indications/contraindications for needle cricothyrotomy and demonstrate the ability to proficiently perform the procedure.			
Equipment: Appropriate PPE, cricothyrotomy manikin, antiseptic agent, tape, 10 ml syringe, 12ga over-the-needle catheter or Rusch QuickTrach® Emergency Needle Cricothyrotomy Kit and BVM.			
Performance Criteria: The individual will be required to describe the indications/contraindications for needle cricothyrotomy and proficiently perform the procedure on a cricothyrotomy manikin.			
Step	Description	Does	Does Not
1	Verbalizes/demonstrates use of appropriate PPE		
2	Verbalizes indications for needle cricothyrotomy: • Inability to maintain the airway with standard airway procedures. Typically involves patients with one or more of the following: ○ Airway obstruction by uncontrolled bleeding into the oral cavity and/or vomiting ○ Severe maxillofacial trauma – blunt, penetrating, or associated with mandibular fracture ○ Laryngeal foreign body that cannot be removed expeditiously ○ Swelling of upper airway structures ○ Infection (e.g., epiglottitis, Ludwig’s angina) ○ Allergic reaction or hereditary angioedema ○ Chemical or thermal burns to the epiglottis and upper airway		
3	Verbalizes contraindications for needle cricothyrotomy: • Age <3 years or estimated weight <15 kg • Ability to maintain airway utilizing less invasive procedures • Conscious patient • Moving ambulance • Midline neck hematoma or massive subcutaneous emphysema		
4	Selects appropriate size catheter/device for patient size		
5	Assembles and checks the equipment: • If using 12ga airway catheter ○ Attaches 10 ml syringe to the catheter ○ Ensure a 3.0mm endotracheal tube connector is available to attach to the catheter to the BVM following placement • If using the QuickTrach Cricothyrotomy Kit, device comes pre-assembled with syringe attached		
6	Stabilizes larynx with thumb and forefinger and locates cricoid membrane		



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Step	Description	Does	Does Not
7	Inserts catheter/device: - If using a 12ga catheter, inserts needle downward through the midline of the cricoid membrane at a 45° angle caudally while applying negative pressure to the syringe - If using the QuickTrach Cricothyrotomy Kit, punctures cricoid membrane at a 90° angle		
8	Verifies needle has entered the trachea by aspirating air into syringe		
9	Advances catheter/cannula: - If using a 12ga catheter, advances catheter over the needle caudally - If using the QuickTrach Cricothyrotomy Kit: - Changes angle of insertion to 45° and advances to the level of the stopper - Removes stopper (does not advance device with needle still attached) - Slides plastic cannula into the trachea until flange rests on the neck		
10	Removes and properly disposes needle and syringe		
11	Secures catheter/cannula		
12	Provides Ventilation: - If using a 12ga catheter, attaches a 3.0mm endotracheal tube connector to the catheter, attaches BVM with supplemental oxygen and provides ventilation using appropriate rate. - If using the QuickTrach Cricothyrotomy Kit, attaches BVM to connecting tube and provides ventilation at appropriate rate - Due to the limited efficiency of exhalation through a small catheter, does not ventilate faster than 10-12 breaths per minute (1 breath every 5-6 seconds) - Attaches an ETCO₂ monitoring device		
13	Verifies proper placement by: - The observance of chest rise and fall - Auscultation of lung sounds and the absence of subcutaneous emphysema		