

PLEURAL DECOMPRESSION (NEEDLE THORACOSTOMY) – SKILL LAB

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

Instructor Evaluator (signature): _____

Student Evaluator (signature): _____

SCORING

N/A	Not applicable for this patient
0	Unsuccessful; required critical or excessive prompting; inconsistent; not yet competent
1	Successful; competent; no prompting necessary

Actual Time Started: _____

SCORE

Manages the patient's airway with basic maneuvers and supplemental oxygen; intubates as necessary	
Appropriately recognizes signs of tension pneumothorax	
Selects, checks, assembles equipment	
14-16 ga. x 2 inch over-the-needle catheter (adult) or 16-18 ga. x 1 ½ -2 inch over-the-needle catheter (pediatric)	
10 mL syringe	
4x4s	
Antiseptic solution	
Tape	
Prepares patient	
Takes or verbalizes appropriate PPE precautions	
Palpates the chest locating the second or third intercostals space on the midclavicular line (the second rib joins the sternum at the angle of Louis, the second intercostals space is located between the 2 nd and 3 rd ribs while the third intercostals space is between the 3 rd and 4 th ribs)	
Properly cleanses the insertion site with appropriate solution	
Performs needle thoracostomy	
Reconfirms the site of insertion and directs the needle over the top of the rib on the midclavicular line	
Listens for a rush of air or watches for plunger in syringe to withdraw and aspirates air	
Removes needle/syringe leaving only the catheter in place	
Disposes of the needle in proper container	
Stabilizes the catheter hub with 4x4s and tape	
Reassesses adequacy of ventilation, lung sounds, blood pressure and pulse for improvement in patient condition	
Affective	
Accepts evaluation and criticism professionally	
Shows willingness to learn	
Interacts with simulated patient and other personnel in professional manner	

Actual Time Ended: _____

TOTAL: /19

Critical Criteria

- _____ Failure to take or verbalize appropriate PPE precautions
- _____ Failure to dispose of the needle in proper container
- _____ Failure to correctly locate the site for insertion
- _____ Failure to properly cleanse site prior to needle insertion
- _____ Incorrect procedure relating to needle insertion (inserting below the rib, incorrect anatomical location, etc.)
- _____ Failure to assess the need for needle decompression (diminished or absent breath sounds, signs of hemodynamic compromise, etc.)
- _____ Failure to reassess patient condition following procedure
- _____ Failure to receive a total score of 15 or greater