



Needle Decompression: Checklist Pediatric Emergency Medicine Competency Based Evaluation

Staff Being Evaluated: _____

Instructor: _____

Date: _____

| Skill Description | Done Incorrectly/ Not Done | Done Correctly |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Preparation & Equipment Check | - | - |
| Verbalizes/demonstrates use of appropriate PPE | 0 | 1 |
| Verbalizes indications for needle thoracostomy (>50%) - Suspected tension pneumothorax with significant respiratory compromise - Deteriorating respiratory status - Decreased SBP, increased HR - Diminished lung sounds on the affected side - Jugular vein distension - Hyper-resonance to percussion on the affected side - Tracheal shift (difficult to assess) - Increased resistance with ventilation (BVM, ET) | 0 | 1 |
| Verbalizes/identifies approved needle thoracostomy sites • Mid- clavicular line 2nd intercostal space • Extra: Mid-axillary 4th intercostal space (prepping for finger thoracostomy) | 0 | 1 |
| Chooses Appropriate Equipment: - Needle size (5cm, 14 gauge needle) - Extra: Second needle in case of failed initial attempt or requiring needling a second spot - 10ml syringe - cleaning/prepping solution | 0 | 1 |
| Procedure | - | - |
| Prepares site using aseptic technique | 0 | 1 |
| Removes end cap from catheter and attaches empty 10 mL syringe | 0 | 1 |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Inserts needle with syringe attached into skin at a 90°angle just over the superior border of the rib (perpendicular NOT parallel) | 0 | 1 |
| Advances catheter until air is freely aspirated | 0 | 1 |
| Removes syringe and needle and leaves catheter in place | 0 | 1 |
| Secures the catheter/Provides a seal with a gauze to the chest | 0 | 1 |
| Rechecks breath sounds and closely monitors patient status | 0 | 1 |
| Prepares for next steps of performing a finger thoracostomy/Chest tube insertion | | |

Total Score _____

Created by Natasha Collià