



Infrequently Used Skills Verification Checklist Pleural Decompression

1110-G

Name:	Date:
Provider Agency:	Evaluator:

Objective: Describe the indications/contraindications for pleural decompression and demonstrate the ability to proficiently perform the procedure.

Equipment: *Appropriate PPE, pleural decompression manikin or simulated chest, Minimum 14 ga x 3.25" catheter designed for pleural decompression and Capnospot® Pneumothorax Decompression Indicator or Simplified Pneumothorax Emergency Air Release (SPEAR®) catheter, stethoscope, stopcock or one way valve, tape, antiseptic agent, tape.*

Performance Criteria: The individual will be required to describe the indications/contraindications for pleural decompression 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 pleural decompression: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspected tension pneumothorax with a history of chest trauma, unilateral absent or diminished breath sounds & one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Severe respiratory distress with an SpO2 <94% ○ SBP ≤90 or loss of radial pulse ○ Traumatic cardiac arrest 		
3	Verbalizes correct equipment required for procedure		
4	Verbalizes that only two (2) attempts are allowed on affected side(s) without base/modified base hospital contact		
5	Verbalizes/identifies approved pleural decompression sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-clavicular line, 2nd intercostal space • Mid-axillary line, 4th/5th intercostal space (above nipple line) • Anterior axillary line, 5th intercostal space (above nipple line) 		
6	Prepares site using aseptic technique		

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Step	Description	Does	Does Not
7	<p>If using a 14g x 3.25” needle/catheter with Capnospot® Pneumothorax Decompression Indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attaches the Capnospot® Pneumothorax Decompression Indicator to the needle/catheter prior to insertion• Penetrates the skin, advancing needle/catheter with at a 90° angle, over the superior border of the rib• Advances needle/catheter through the chest wall until a positive indication of CO₂ is observed via Capnospot or a “pop” is felt upon entering the pleural space• Holds the decompression device in place for approx. 10 seconds & observes for visible color change in the Capnospot indicator chamber (note: color change may not be reliable on pts with an open pneumothorax)• Advances catheter hub of the decompression device over the needle to the plane of the pt’s skin• Remove needle after catheter has been fully inserted• Removes Capnospot from the needle & reapplies the Capnospot to the catheter for ongoing assessment <p>If using a Simplified Pneumothorax Emergency Air Release (SPEAR®):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inserts the SPEAR needle/catheter through skin targeting selected rib (below level of intended insertion site)• Places needle tip against exterior rib and confirm position – directs SPEAR over the rib and into thoracic cavity• Penetrates thoracic cavity – extending SPEAR approx. 3 cm beyond exterior of target rib• Direct needle tip toward middle of clavicle• Release catheter from needle by disconnecting Spin Lock• Advance only the catheter toward middle of clavicle using needle as stationary guide• Remove needle after catheter has been fully inserted		
8	If an initial attempt at one approved site is unsuccessful, considers utilizing an alternate approved site		
9	Adequately secures catheter & observes for clinical indicators of successful placement		
10	Rechecks breath sounds and closely monitors patient status		