SKILLS VERIFICATION
NEEDLE CHEST DECOMPRESSION

NAME _____ DATE _____

ALS AGENCY _____ EVALUATOR _____

OBJECTIVE: The candidate will demonstrate the ability to correctly decompress a tension pneumothorax.

EQUIPMENT: Decompression manikin or simulated chest, Minimum 14ga x 3" catheter, stethoscope, one way valve, tape, alcohol wipe or recognized antiseptic agent, appropriate PPE.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA AND CONDITIONS: The candidate will be presented with a decompression manikin or simulated chest and will correctly demonstrate the ability to decompress a tension pneumothorax.

EVENT	DOES	DOES NOT
1. States the indications for Needle Decompression: • Unstable **and** decreased or absent breath sounds on one side of chest		
2. States the approved sites for Needle Decompression: • Anterior – 2nd intercostals space, mid-clavicular line – preferred site • Lateral – 4th or 5th intercostals space, mid-axillary line (must be above the anatomic nipple line) – alternate site		
3. States the minimum catheter size required for Needle Decompression: • Minimum 14 ga x 3" catheter		
4. States the number of attempts allowed without obtaining voice orders from a base hospital: • Two attempts only on the affected side		
5. States or demonstrates the use of PPE		
6. Identifies the appropriate landmarks for placement • Able to locate both preferred and alternate sites		
7. Prepares the area using aseptic technique		
8. Removes the end cap from the catheter (may attach syringe)		
9. Inserts the needle into the skin at a 90° angle just over the superior border of the rib		
10. Advances the catheter until a gush of air is heard & air is freely aspirated		
11. Removes the needle and leaves the catheter in place		
12. Attaches a one-way valve		
13. Secures the catheter / tubing to the chest wall		
14. Rechecks breath sounds and closely monitors cardio-respiratory status		