



**National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians®
Paramedic Psychomotor Competency Portfolio Manual**

PLEURAL DECOMPRESSION (NEEDLE THORACOSTOMY) SKILLS LAB

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Instructor Evaluator: _____ Student Evaluator: _____
Signature Signature

SCORING	
N/A	Not applicable for this patient
0	Unsuccessful; required critical or excessive prompting; inconsistent; not yet competent
1	Not yet competent, marginal or inconsistent, this includes partial attempts
2	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 1½ – 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 intercostal space on the midclavicular line (the second rib joins the sternum at the angle of Louis, the second intercostal space is located between 2 nd & 3 rd ribs while the third intercostal space is between 3 rd & 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 /38

