MWLC EMSS Skills Sheet

Needle Thoracostomy

Name:	1st attempt:		Meets Standard		Does not meet standard
Date:	2nd attempt:		Meets Standard		Does not meet standard

Instructions: The purpose of this skills sheet is to outline the requirements for performing a Needle Thoracostomy.
Required items to meet standards are indicated with an asterisk.

Performance standard NP=Step not performed. 0=Does not meet standard. Unsuccessful; critical or excess prompting; improper technique. 1=Meets Standard. Successful; minimal to no prompting; proper technique.	**1st attempt**	**2nd attempt**
* BSI: Gloves & Eye Protection. (minimum required)		
Indications for procedure/Signs &Symptoms of a *tension pneumothorax ☐ ***Unilateral absence of breath sounds** ☐ ***SBP < 90** ☐ Severe dyspnea ☐ JVD ☐ Asymmetric chest expansion ☐ Pleuritic chest pain ☐ Hyperresonance to percussion on affected side		
***Contraindications for procedure** ☐ ☐ **SBP > 90** ☐ Simple pneumothorax		
***Prepare and assemble equipment** ☐ 10 gauge; 3" needle ☐ 10 mL syringe ☐ CHG/IPA prep ☐ Attach 10 mL syringe to end of IV catheter		
***Procedure:** ☐ **Locate and i**dentify landmarks: 2nd-3rd intercostal space in midclavicular line on affected side ☐ Cleanse skin with CHG/IPA prep ☐ Insert needle at a 90° angle to chest wall over superior border of 3rd or 4th rib ☐ Listen for "pop" as needle penetrates pleural space; observe plunger move in syringe ☐ Assess radial pulses and ventilatory status for improvement ☐ Advance catheter over needle into chest up to hub; remove needle – prevent catheter kinking ☐ Immediately place needle in a sharps container ☐ Reassess patient to determine need for a second needle placement ☐ Transport patient to a Level I trauma center if ground transport time ≤ 30 min		
Verbalizes at least 2 **complications** associated w/ this procedure ☐ Hemothorax: Inadvertent puncture of costal vessels ☐ Pneumothorax if not pre-existing ☐ Sub-q emphysema ☐ Prolonged pain from injury to intercostal nerves		
Evaluator name, signature, comments:		