

## Needle Cricothyrotomy (April 2013)

<b>Item:</b>  An invasive medical procedure where a hollow needle/catheter is inserted into a patient's trachea through the cricoid membrane in order to establish a temporary airway. This procedure may be used when all other attempts to establish an airway have failed.
<b>Classification:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advanced Life Support procedure</li><li>• Specified in existing regulations.</li></ul>
<b>Use and Level:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not authorized for EMT or AEMT</li><li>• Authorized for Paramedic through existing regulations</li></ul>
<b>Authority:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Section 100146(c)(1)(L) of the Paramedic Regulations, Chapter 4, Division 9, Title 22, California Code of Regulations states that a Paramedic may perform a needle cricothyrotomy.</li></ul>
<b>Training:</b> As specified in EMT and Paramedic regulations for level of provider.
<b>Equipment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Size 16 gauge needle or smaller</li></ul>
<b>Medical Direction:</b> Used in accordance with a protocol written and approved by the local EMS agency medical director (HS 1797.220).
<b>Considerations and Recommendations:</b> Jet/Transtracheal ventilation is required for successful needle cricothyrotomy use.