

Needle Thoracostomy (April 2013)

Item: An invasive medical procedure to remove fluid or air trapped within pleural space in order to relieve pressure often associated with a pneumothorax.
Classification: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advanced Life Support procedure• Specified in existing regulations.
Use and Level: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not authorized for EMT or AEMT• Authorized for Paramedic through existing regulations
Authority: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section 100146(c)(1)(M) of the Paramedic Regulations, Chapter 4, Division 9, Title 22, California Code of Regulations states that a Paramedic may perform a needle thoracostomy.
Training: As specified in EMT and Paramedic regulations for level of provider.
Equipment: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No suggestions/recommendations
Medical Direction: Used in accordance with a protocol written and approved by the local EMS agency medical director (HS 1797.220).
Considerations and Recommendations: No additional guidance at this time.