



San Benito County Emergency Medical Services Agency

NEEDLE THORACOSTOMY

Policy : 5300
Effective : May 1, 2014
Reviewed : March 1, 2014

- A. This procedure is indicated for the patient who is *in extremis* and has clinical signs of a tension pneumothorax.
- B. Patient must have sufficient anatomical landmarks to identify structures needed to perform procedure.
- C. Base Station contact is not required prior to procedure, however all efforts to notify Base Station shall be made. Base Station contact shall be made, as soon as possible, after procedure is performed.
- D. Paramedics are only authorized to establish needle thoracotomy using the anterior, midclavicular approach. Lateral chest wall needle thoracotomy is prohibited.
- E. All patients with needle thoracotomy are considered *in extremis* and will be transported to the closest receiving facility.