

NEEDLE CRICOTHYROTOMY			
Name: _____ Date: _____ License # _____			
<p>Transtracheal catheter ventilation is a temporary emergency procedure to provide oxygenation when airway obstruction cannot be relieved by other methods.</p> <p>A. <u>Assessment/Treatment Indicators</u> for the unconscious patient :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Patient is unconscious and unresponsive. 2. Total airway obstruction following unsuccessful attempts of BLS and ALS obstructed airway procedures. 3. Massive facial trauma in a patient who cannot be intubated by either oral or nasotracheal means. 4. Injury to the trachea/larynx in a patient who cannot adequately ventilated or intubated by either oral or nasotracheal means. 5. Airway obstruction due to infection. <p>B. <u>Contraindications:</u> NONE.</p> <p>C. <u>Potential Complications:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With the high pressure used during ventilation and the possibility of air entrapment, may produce a pneumothorax. 2. Hemorrhage may occur at the site of the needle insertion, especially if the thyroid is perforated. 3. Perforation of the esophagus. 4. Subcutaneous or mediastinal emphysema. 5. Usually does not allow enough ventilation to adequately eliminate carbon dioxide. 			
<u>Equipment:</u>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Translaryngeal jet ventilator with push-button and high-pressure tubing with locking device (Adult) or disposable Bag-Valve device (Pediatric) 2. Endotracheal tubes: 3.0 or 3.5 ET 3. Providone iodine 4. Oxygen supply @ 50 PSI 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. 10 - 12 ga needle for adult, 12 – 14 ga needle for pediatrics 6. Battery powered suction device 7. Yankauer Tonsil Tip Suction Catheter Non-rigid 8. 10 ml syringe 9. End-tidal CO2 device 		
Performance Criteria			Pass
1.	Uses universal precautions.		
2.	States indications and contraindications of procedure.		
3.	Locates and prepares insertion site at the cricothyroid membrane between the thyroid and cricoid cartilage of larnyx.		

Performance Criteria		Pass	Fail
4.	Attaches the IV catheter to the syringe and inserts the needle midline at a 45° angle with a quick smooth downward motion following the direction of the trachea. Applies negative pressure to the syringe during insertion. Entrance of air into the syringe indicates that the needle is in the trachea.		
5.	Advances the catheter over the needle, and withdraws the needle and syringe. If using cricothyrotomy cannula, removes obturator. Attaches oxygen delivery device.		
6.	Assesses for hemorrhage or subcutaneous emphysema, which may indicate improper placement.		
7.	Auscultates lungs while manually holding needle.		
8.	Secures needle hub in place with tape over Benzoin or with other approved device.		
9.	Monitor end-tidal CO ₂ and/or pulse oximetry, and chest expansion		
10.	Document verification of needle placement		
11.	Contact Base Hospital if unable to adequately ventilate patient, and transport immediately to closest hospital for airway management.		

Please provide comments for any item that is marked as failed: _____

Name & Signature of Evaluator

Date

Effective: January 1, 2010
Supersedes: January 1, 2009

Approved: Signature on File
Medical Director

Signature on File
EMS Administrator