Loudoun County Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc.

EMS Policy #16

Needle Thoracostomy
(Chest Decompression)

Origin: **10/98**
Revision: **03/10**

1. PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

A. Be a Virginia certified EMT-I/P authorized by the Operational Medical Director to practice in Loudoun County.

B. Training in Needle Thoracostomy (Chest Decompression) will be conducted during basic EMT-I/P courses and EMT-I/P Refresher Classes sponsored by the Loudoun County EMS Advisory Council, Inc., or the ALS Challenge Prep Class sponsored by the ALS Committee.

1. All personnel will satisfy the following criteria:

a. Demonstrate adequate knowledge and satisfactory skill performance during testing.

C. Satisfy ongoing “skill maintenance requirements” as described in Policy #27 ALS Semi-Annual Skill Maintenance Requirements.

2. AUTHORIZATION FOR USE

A. Authorization to perform Needle Thoracostomy is granted to EMT-I/P personnel meeting all criteria documented in the “PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY” of this policy and Policy #27 ALS Semi-Annual Skills Requirements.

B. Improper use of Needle Thoracostomy will be brought to the attention of the Operational Medical Director, who will pursue corrective action with the involved provider’s ALS Agency Chief, in concert with General Directive #1.

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