

Student: _____ Level: ☐ EMT-I ☐ EMT-P Date: _____
 Evaluator: _____ Time Start: _____ End: _____ Total: _____ Pass/Fail _____

Skill Sheet: Management of Chest Trauma

Conditions	The candidate should perform this procedure on a simulated patient under existing indoor, ambulance, or outdoor lighting, temperature, and weather conditions.
Indications	Patient who has experienced a medical or trauma mechanism to the chest that results in loss of normal lung expansion, either due to negative pressure loss (pneumothorax) or excessive positive pressure (tension pneumothorax)
Red Flags	Increased possibility of infection. Application of an occlusive dressing can result in forming a tension pneumothorax; needle decompression is unlikely to reduce hemothorax, and will create an open pneumothorax

Don appropriate standard precautions	
Apply supplemental oxygen and/or ventilate patient with bag mask	
Evaluate patient for chest trauma	
Confirm trauma mechanism or medical condition that could cause a open pneumothorax or tension	
EXPOSE and INSPECT neck, anterior and posterior chest wall for signs of severe respiratory compromise, including tachypnea, accessory muscle use, asymmetrical chest rise and presence of	
If open wound is seen, apply direct pressure to site with gloved hand immediately	
PALPATE chest wall for cage integrity, presence of subcutaneous air, asymmetrical chest	
AUSCULTATE for unequal lung sounds bilaterally along midaxillary lines	
Occlusive Dressing	
Select Occlusive Dressing	
Commercial occlusive dressing (Vaseline gauze, Asherman chest seal, etc.), or Improvised occlusive dressing (plastic bag, plastic wrap, plastic bandage/gauze wrappers, etc.)	
Wipe away excess blood	
Prepare site with iodine and/ or alcohol	
Apply Occlusive Dressing	
Immediately occlude wound with gloved hand	
Control bleeding with direct pressure, as needed	
Place occlusive dressing and tape securely to skin (may tape on only three sides to leave a "flutter" valve to allow air escape)	
If tension pneumothorax develops, untape 4 th side and reassess.	
Monitor patient for any changes	
Continue transport	

Critical Criteria:

- ___ Use appropriate standard precautions
- ___ Identify tension pneumothorax quickly
- ___ Recognize developing tension pneumothorax after occlusive dressing application