

S-1 – PLEURAL DECOMPRESSION

- Locate the 2nd intercostal space in the midclavicular line on the side of the pneumothorax;
- Prep the site in a sterile manner;
- Attach a syringe to a 10 - 14 gauge, ≥3" angiocath;
- Insert the catheter over the top edge of the third rib at a 90 degree angle. Stay well clear of the neurovascular bundle on the bottom of the 2nd rib;
- A "give" will be felt when entering the pleural space and a rush of air should be heard;
- Remove the needle and syringe;
- Attach a one-way valve;
- Tape in place;
- Check for breath sounds and improvement of patient.

Disrupted Communications: In the event of a "disrupted communications" situation, the EMT-P in Solano County may utilize all portions of this treatment protocols without Base Hospital Contact as is needed to stabilize an immediate patient.