



Simple Thoracotomy Skill Documentation Form

Student: _____ Examiner: _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

PASS _____ FAIL _____

Task:	Correct	Incorrect
Recognizes inadequacy of continued needle chest decompressions following second failure		
Discuss indications for chest tube placement (Pneumothorax, Hemothorax, etc.)		
Determine insertion site (fifth intercostal space anterior to mid-axillary line)		
Surgically prepare chest if possible		
Locally anesthetize the skin and rib periosteum if necessary due to patient level of consciousness		
Keep within the "Safe Triangle" unless guided elsewhere by ultrasound		
Make 2-3 cm incision over rib with scalpel or scissors		
Dissect using blunt technique through subcutaneous tissues with curved hemostat or blunt scissors		
Puncture parietal pleura over the top of the rib with curved clamp		
Insert gloved finger into incision to palpate lung, check for bowel or other structures which should not be present, and ensure proper placement		
Use dressing to cover incision, assuring dressing does not interfere with outflow		
Verbalizes complications of chest tube placement (Laceration/damage to internal organs, infection, ineffective chest tube placement, clogging of chest tube, etc.)		
TOTAL:		

Note: any "incorrect" represents a skill failure

Critical Failure Criteria	
	Failure to establish a simple thoracotomy within 5 minutes
	Failure to perform any BOLDED step
	Handling any instrument in a dangerous manner
	Uses inappropriate affect with patient or examiner
	Uses or orders a dangerous or inappropriate intervention



Figure 1 Safe Triangle

NOTE: You must factually document any "incorrect" or critical failure criteria on back of this form