



MEDICAL CONTROL POLICY STATEMENT/ADVISORY

No. 2022-12
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Office of the Medical Director

Noel Wagner, MD, NRP
1575 Concentric BLVD
Saginaw, MI 48604
(989) 607-2060
Fax (989) 607-2061
SaginawTuscolaMCA.org

Needle Decompression

All ALS Providers:

Needle Decompression is a high acuity/ low frequency intervention. Because of this, we would like to give some information regarding this procedure.

- The STMCA provider's preferred, and recommended site for pleural decompression is between second and third intercostal space in the mid-clavicular line. The lateral approach is commonly taught, but because of the higher occurrences of misidentified landmarks it is discouraged in the STMCA.
- To avoid the vein, artery, and nerve, you should go over top of the third rib.
- Going too low in the mid-axillary site can cause the needle to enter the peritoneum region and cause issues to the diaphragm and GI system.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out.

Attachments: Protocol 7 – 18 – Pleural Decompression
