NOR-CAL EMS	05-0919	Skills: Surgical Cricothyrotomy

Nor-Cal EMS Policy & Procedure Manual	BLS/ALS Protocols
Effective Date: 10/01/2020	Next Revision: 10/01/2023
Approval: Jeffrey Kepple MD – MEDICAL DIRECTOR	SIGNATURE ON FILE

Authority: Health and Safety Code Division 2.5, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9.

Provider Name: Provider's Signature:	Cert #: Provider Agency:
Validator's Name: Validator's Signature:	Date:

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	MET (Initials)	NOT MET (Initials)	COMMENTS
1. Uses universal precautions.			
2. States indications and contraindications of procedure.			
3. Locates and prepares insertion site at the cricothyroid membrane between the thyroid and cricoid cartilage of larynx.			
4. After prepping the skin, makes a transverse incision approximately 2-3 cm through the skin and cricothyroid membrane.			
5. Dilates the incision using the handle of the scalpel by inserting and rotating 90 degrees or by using a Kelly clamp.			
6. Inserts appropriate endotracheal or tracheostomy tube through the dilated incision.			
7. Inflates endotracheal or tracheostomy tube cuff.			
8. Assesses airway for hemorrhage or subcutaneous emphysema and auscultates lungs.			
9. Secures needle hub in place with tape over Benzoin or with other approved device.			

1. Attempt base hospital contact AFTER this procedure is performed.
2. Assessment/treatment indicators for the unconscious patient:
   A. Total airway obstruction following unsuccessful attempts of the AHA obstructed airway procedure.
   B. Massive facial trauma in a patient who cannot be intubated by oral means.
   C. Injury to the trachea/larynx in a patient who cannot be intubated by either oral or nasotracheal means.
   D. Airway obstruction due to infection.
3. Contraindications: NONE
4. Possible Complications:
   A. With the high pressure used during ventilation and the possibility of air entrapment, may produce a pneumothorax.
   B. Hemorrhage may occur at the site of the needle insertion, especially if the thyroid is perforated.
   C. Perforation of the esophagus.

Subcutaneous or mediastinal emphysema.