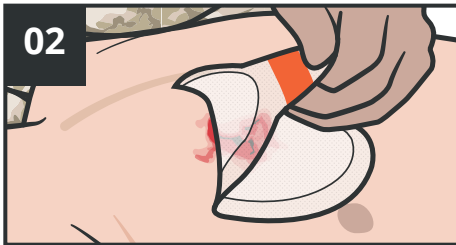
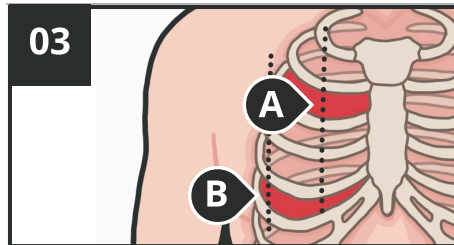


# NEEDLE DECOMPRESSION OF THE CHEST (NDC)

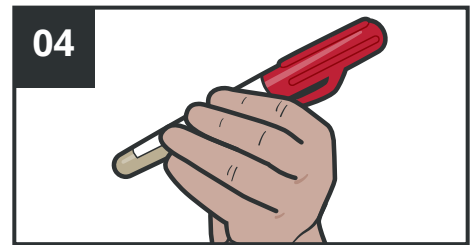
**01** **ASSESS** the casualty for signs of suspected tension pneumothorax.



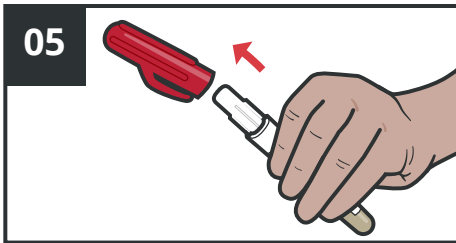
If a chest seal was previously applied, **BURP** or **REPLACE** the chest seal (if improperly applied).



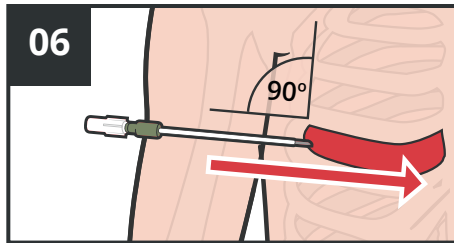
**03** **IDENTIFY** the site for needle insertion.



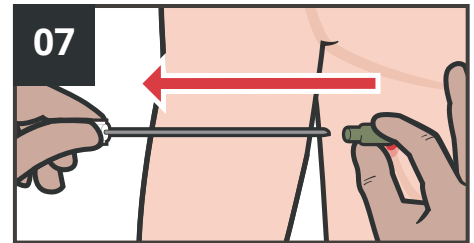
**04** **USE** appropriate needle catheter (either 10 or 14 gauge, 3¼ inches).  
**NOTE:** If available, use antiseptic solution or a pad to clean the site.



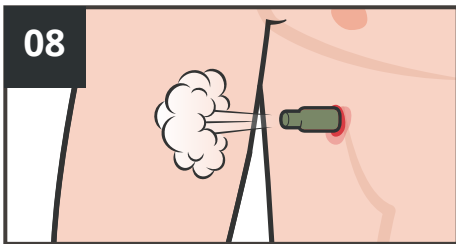
**05** **REMOVE** the Luer lock cap from the needle catheter (if applicable).



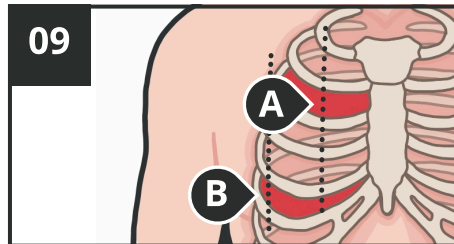
**06** **INSERT** needle just over top of lower rib at insertion site, at a 90-degree angle to the curvature of the chest, and not the ground.



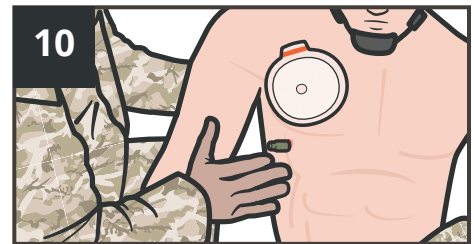
**07** **LEAVE** in place for 5–10 sec before removing the needle, leaving the catheter in place.



**08** **ASSESS** for successful needle decompression.  
**NOTE:** You should hear air escaping the chest. Respiratory distress improves.



**09** If the NDC is not helpful, **PERFORM** another NDC using a new needle on the second site, same side.



**10** **PLACE** the casualty in the sitting position or recovery position with injured side down.

**11** Continue to **REASSESS** the casualty for reoccurrence of progressive respiratory distress.

**12** If the initial NDC was successful, but symptoms later recur, then **PERFORM** another NDC at the same site that was used previously. Use a new needle/catheter unit for the repeat NDC.

**13** If the second NDC is also not successful, then continue onto the Circulation section of the MARCH (Massive bleeding, Airway, Respiration, Circulation, Hypothermia/Head) sequence.

**14** **DOCUMENT** all findings and treatments on the DD Form 1380 TCCC Casualty Card.