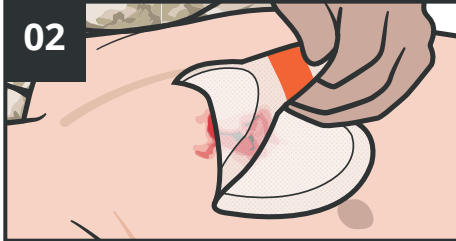
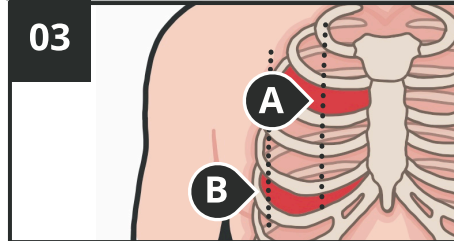


NEEDLE DECOMPRESSION OF THE CHEST (NDC)

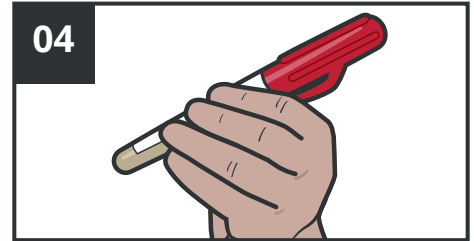
01 **ASSESS** the casualty for signs of suspected tension pneumothorax.



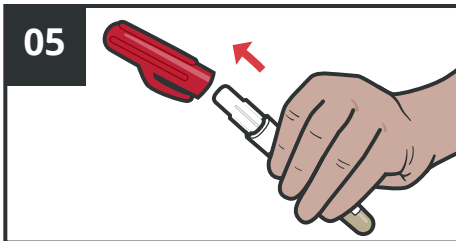
If a chest seal was previously applied, **BURP** or **REPLACE** the chest seal (if improperly applied).



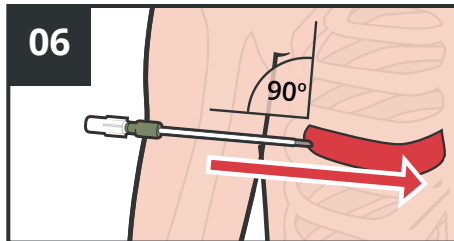
03 **IDENTIFY** the site for needle insertion.



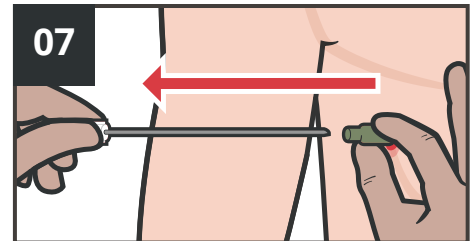
04 **USE** appropriate needle catheter (either 10 or 14 gauge, 3¼ inches).
NOTE: If available, use antiseptic solution or a pad to clean the site.



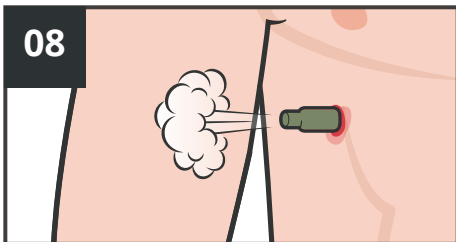
05 **REMOVE** the Luer lock cap from the needle catheter (if applicable).



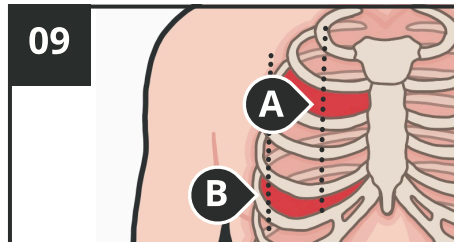
06 **INSERT** needle just over top of lower rib at insertion site, at a 90-degree angle to the curvature of the chest, and not the ground.



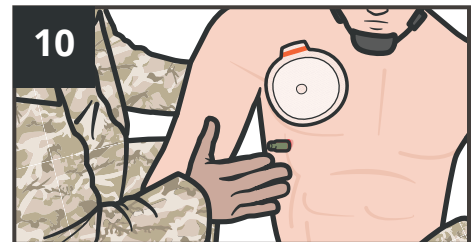
07 **LEAVE** in place for 5–10 sec before removing the needle, leaving the catheter in place.



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.