

Section: Division of Nursing

PROTOCOL

Approval: _____

HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Originator: Liz Fitzgerald RN, BSN, CCRN

ER
(Scope)

TITLE: Use of Non-Safety Needle Protocol in the Emergency Department

PURPOSE: To define those instances when it is acceptable to use a non-safety needle in the Emergency Dept.

LEVEL: ___ Dependent ___ Independent Interdependent

SUPPORTIVE DATA: Non-safety needles may be used in certain situations in the Emergency Department to obtain desired patient outcomes. Non-safety needles will be utilized by physicians only in the below outline circumstances.

CONTENT STATEMENTS: **Cardiac Emergencies:**

A non-safety large bore 18 gauge or greater will be utilized in the following situations:

- A) Patient presents to the Emergency department with signs of a tension pneumothorax including but not limited to tracheal deviation, shortness of breath, decreased or absent breath sounds on one side of the chest, and a decrease in cardiac function. A large bore non-safety needle will be inserted mid-clavicular line 2nd intercostal space on the affected side by a physician to relieve the tension pneumothorax, until a chest tube can be inserted.
- B) Patient presents to the Emergency department with signs of cardiac tamponade, including but not limited to JVD with the head of the bed at 45 degrees, muffled heart tones, narrowed pulse pressure and signs of cardiac compromise. A large bore non-safety needle will be attached to the end of a 10cc or larger syringe and after cleaning the chest with an appropriate solution (hibiclenz or betadine) will be inserted by the physician under the sternum into the pericardial sac to remove fluid.

Suturing:

A physician will utilize a 30 gauge non-safety needle at their discretion for injecting lidocaine into a wound to numb it for suturing. This will occur mostly in children and in areas on the face; however it will be at the discretion of the physician.

Outcome:

Use of non-safety needles in the situations above will allow the physician to provide the proper care for the patient in the Emergency Department.

REFERENCE: