PNEUMOTHORAX / TENSION PNEUMOTHORAX

ALWAYS USE BODY SUBSTANCE ISOLATION PRECAUTIONS

INDICATION
- Acute onset of respiratory distress with decreased unilateral or bilateral breath sounds. Signs and symptoms may include the following:
  - Extreme dyspnea
  - Neck vein distension
  - Agitation
  - Hypotension
  - Cyanosis
  - Hyperresonance to percussion on affected side
  - Tracheal shift away from the affected side

TREATMENT
- ALS RMC
- Needle thoracostomy on affected side with signs of tension pneumothorax
- Rapid transport

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION
- Condition may be precipitated by the following:
  - Trauma
  - Pre-existing lung disease
  - Cancer related treatment
  - Marfan’s syndrome

DOCUMENTATION- ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS
- Decompression site
- SAO2 before and after decompression

RELATED POLICIES/ PROCEDURES
- Needle Thoracostomy and Pleural Decompression Procedure ALS PR 8