

PERFORM AN EMERGENCY SURGICAL CRICOTHYROIDOTOMY

For use of this form see TC 8-800; the proponent agency is TRADOC.

TABLES: II

REFERENCES: STP 8-68W13-SM-TG, Task: 081-833-3005, Perform a Surgical Cricothyroidotomy; Prehospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS), Revised Military Edition.

1. **Soldier** (Last Name, First Name, MI)

2. **Date** (YYYYMMDD)

CONDITIONS: Given a casualty with an obstructed or difficult airway in field environment. You have been provided the necessary medical equipment. You are not in a CBRN environment.
Airway management is one of the most critical skills a Soldier Medic must know. A casualty may die needlessly without proper airway management techniques and oxygen administration. The Soldier Medic must be able to choose, and effectively use, the proper techniques and equipment for maintaining an open clear airway and administering oxygen for both medical and trauma casualties.

STANDARDS: Perform all measures IAW the standards of evaluation outlined in C168W144/1 Tactical Combat Casualty Care. You must score at least 70% (10 of 14 steps) and not miss any critical (*) elements on the skill sheet.

SAFETY:

- o Risk Assessment: Low. All bodily fluids should be considered potentially infectious; always observe body substance isolation (BSI).
- o Precautions: Wear gloves and eye protection as a minimal standard of protection.
- o Environmental: None.

NOTE: Soldier Medics must be observed. (Evaluator to Soldier Medic ratio is 1:6).

TEST SCENARIO:

During a night patrol, your infantry squad receives incoming mortar fire. As the squad dives for cover, you notice one of the Soldiers receives a massive facial wound from flying shrapnel. Once the area has been secured, you move forward to assess the casualty. The casualty has an altered level of consciousness and is not breathing. You must perform an emergency surgical cricothyroidotomy to establish an airway and to support ventilations; you have been provided the necessary medical equipment.

3. Evaluator's Comments and After-Test Recommendations:

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**PERFORM AN EMERGENCY SURGICAL CRICOTHYROIDOTOMY
GRADING SHEET**

TASK	COMPLETED					
	1ST		2ND		3RD	
	P	F	P	F	P	F
4.						
a. * Took/verbalized body substance isolation (BSI) precautions.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
b. Assessed the upper airway for visible obstruction.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
c. Correctly identified the cricothyroid membrane.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
d. Palpated the cricothyroid membrane and (<i>while stabilizing the cartilage</i>) made a vertical incision in the midline, directly over the cricothyroid membrane.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
e. While continuing to stabilize the larynx, used the scalpel or a hemostat and cut or poked through the cricothyroid membrane.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
f. Inserted the tips of the hemostat through the opening and opened the jaws to dilate the opening.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
g. Inserted an appropriate sized ET tube or cannula between the jaws of the hemostat; the tube is in the trachea, directed distally towards the lungs.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
h. Inflated the cuff with 5-10 ml of air.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
i. * Checked for air exchange and verified placement of the tube by listening and feeling for air passing in and out of the tube and looked for bilateral rise and fall of the chest.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
j. If air exchange was adequate, secured the tube.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
k. Applied a dressing to further protect the tube and incision site.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
l. Monitored the casualty's respirations; administered suction as needed.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
m. Documented the procedure on the appropriate medical form.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
n. * Did not cause further injury to the casualty.	<input type="checkbox"/>					

* CRITICAL ELEMENTS

**PERFORM AN EMERGENCY SURGICAL CRICOTHYROIDOTOMY
EVALUATOR GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS**

Inform the Soldier Medic of the CONDITIONS and STANDARDS as stated on this form.
Provide an optional scenario, if appropriate. This scenario should reinforce the unique or particular needs of the unit.
Allow sufficient time for the Soldier Medic to extract information from the scenario.
Provide each evaluator with the grading sheet.
Ensure the Soldier Medic has all required materials.
Explain how the exercise is graded.

Resource Requirements:

Evaluator: Grading sheet and applicable scenario.

Soldier Medic: Applicable scenario, medical aid bag stocked with a basic load to include cricothyroidotomy kit.

Additional Scoring Guidelines: None.