



Standards Procedure (Skill)

Port-A-Cath® Access

Agency Name: _____

Provider Name: _____ Paramedic

Instructor Name: _____ EMT AEMT Paramedic Physician

SATISFACTORY ☐

UNSATISFACTORY ☐

Instructor:

1. Evaluate providers skill performance using the check off list below.

2. Circle performance indicator.

YES = Provider completed skill with no assistance from instructor.

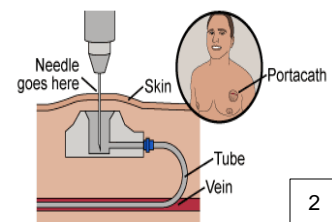
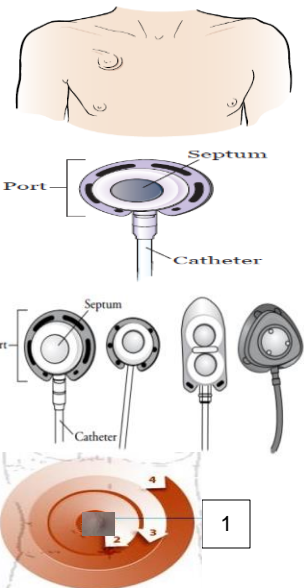
NO = Provider unable to complete skill satisfactorily following instructor intervention.

IL = Provider able to complete skill satisfactorily following Instructor Led (teaching) intervention.

Satisfactory performance indicated with ≥ 12 YES / IL completions. (Combination of both YES and IL)

P Paramedic P

YES NO IL	<u>Verbalizes indications for Port-A-Cath® access:</u> 1. Patient requires IV fluids or access for potential IV fluid need 2. Patient requires IV medication or access for potential IV medication need 3. Patient requires venous blood sample
YES NO IL	<u>Verbalizes contraindications:</u> Redness, edema, pain, or drainage over the site Possible disruption in device Improper functioning of device
YES NO IL	<u>Verbalizes complications:</u> Discomfort, inability to access, bleeding, infection
YES NO IL	<u>Explain procedure to patient</u>
YES NO IL	<u>Gather equipment:</u> Huber needle 20 gauge, 1 inch L-shaped or linear Sterile gloves Apply face mask to provider and patient 10 mL syringe Cleaning pads (Alcohol/Chlorhexidine) IV extension tubing or Huber needle with extension combination
YES NO IL	Assess and palpate location of port and septum to be accessed
YES NO IL	Wash hands and don clean gloves Clean site over port with cleaning pads using circular motion Start over port and make circle larger, extending away from port Repeat this step x 3 (3 new cleaning pads each time) Allow to dry completely
YES NO IL	Open sterile gloves and use inside of package as a sterile field <u>Place the following onto the sterile field from it's respective packaging:</u> Keep all items sterile as you place onto sterile field IV extension set or may be combined with Huber needle as one unit Huber needle 10 mL syringe
YES NO IL	Don sterile gloves Attach IV extension tubing to the Huber needle or use combined kit Draw up 10 mL of NS into syringe and attach to IV extension tubing
YES NO IL	Using your non-dominate hand: Locate edges of port to stabilize Locate septum of port with tip of finger
YES NO IL	Insert Huber needle into center of port (septum) at a 90° angle
YES NO IL	Using firm, but gentle pressure, push the needle through the skin Continue downward pressure until needle touches the metal base of the port
YES NO IL	Aspirate blood using the 10 mL syringe Once aspiration is noted, then flush the port with 10 mL syringe of NS
YES NO IL	Place Tegaderm dressing over the port and Huber needle site
YES NO IL	Attach IV set-up tubing to the IV extension set as indicated



Instructor notes:



Port-A-Cath® Access

Clinical Information for Port-A-Cath® Access

Objective of Procedure:

Acquisition of parenteral access in patient's who have indwelling Port-A-Cath access
Prevent unnecessary IV or IO insertion in patients with central IV access

Scope of Practice: Paramedic

Indications:

Need for IV fluids or medications
Need for venous blood sample acquisition

Contraindications:

Redness, drainage, edema, or pain over port site
Disruption or non-functioning state of port device

Clinical Presentation:

Port-A-Cath is a surgically implanted device allowing easy access to the venous system
The septum of the device is a self-sealing silicone material allowing repetitive needle punctures
Indicated for frequent and long-term IV therapy
Indicated for frequent and long-term venous blood sampling
Often used for oncology patients
Medications often used:
 Chemotherapy
 Antibiotics
 Blood transfusions
Multiple Port-A-Cath devices:
 Single and multiple ports
 Power Ports which allow high pressure infusion of fluid (eg. during CT scan)

Potential Complications:

Pneumothorax
Bleeding
Infection (later finding)
Injury to underlying thoracoabdominal organs

Procedure references:

1. Hamstra, B. (2018). Port-A-Cath 101: How to Access the Port. Retrieved from: <https://nurse.org/articles/what-is-a-port-a-cath/>