

RESPIRATORY EMERGENCIES

R-8 / SPONTANEOUS PNEUMOTHORAX

PRIORITIES ➤ ABCs ➤ Determine degree of physiologic distress ➤ Evaluate respiratory rate, use of accessory muscles, cyanosis, ventilatory effort, level of consciousness ➤ Maintain airway, provide oxygen and ventilatory support PRN ➤ Early transport/ Hospital notification (after initiating therapy, if appropriate) ➤ Code 3 transport for patients in severe respiratory distress ➤ EARLY CONTACT OF RECEIVING HOSPITAL.	FINAL DECEMBER 2003 (Reviewed Mar 07)
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➤ Stabilize airway; ➤ OXYGEN – High Flow. ➤ Cardiac monitor ➤ Begin transport; ➤ Consider IV access; ➤ Continuously monitor for signs of tension pneumothorax; If they develop tension Pneumothorax; CONTACT BASE PHYSICIAN for ORDER to do NEEDLE THORACOSTOMY on affected side (Per Protocol S-1).

DISRUPTED COMMUNICATIONS
In the event that a Solano County EMT-P is UNABLE to make physician contact for orders, the paramedic MAY NOT utilize those areas of the protocol needing physician direction and MUST TRANSPORT IMMEDIATELY TO THE CLOSEST FACILITY.