



# Standards Procedure (Skill)

## Port-A-Cath® Access

Agency Name: **NOT IN USE BY UNION EMS**

Provider Name: Paramedic

Instructor Name: EMT AEMT Paramedic Physician

SATISFACTORY

UNSATISFACTORY

**Instructor:**

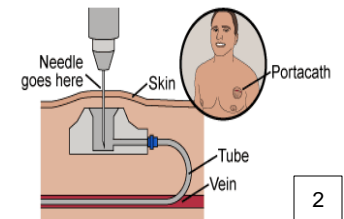
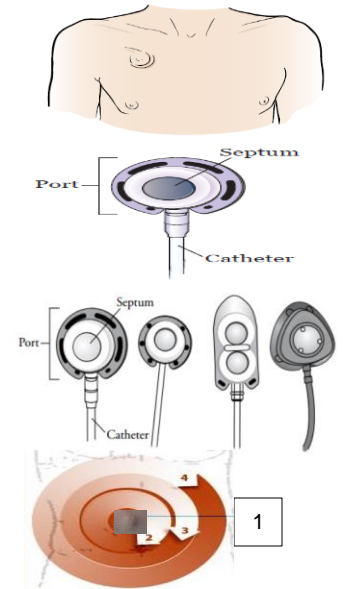
- Evaluate providers skill performance using the check off list below.
- Circle performance indicator.

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.

**P Paramedic P**

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

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	Verbalizes complications: Discomfort, inability to access, bleeding, infection	
YES NO IL	Explain procedure to patient	
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	1
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-dominant hand: Locate edges of port to stabilize Locate septum of port with tip of finger	2
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	3
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/>