



Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

Division of Operations

Emergency Medical and Integrated Healthcare Services

Office of Medical Oversight Clinical Practice Guideline

Title:	SAM ThoraSite for Needle Decompression Thoracostomy	Number:	2025-05
Date:	May 10, 2025		
Issued by:	Roger M. Stone MD, MS – MCFRS Medical Director		
Purpose:	To support accurate placement of Needle Thoracostomy		
Target Patient Population:	Adult Needle Decompression Thoracostomy patients		
Guideline:	<p>The Needle Decompression Thoracostomy (NDT) procedure is a critical yet challenging intervention. Accurate identification of anatomical landmarks is essential, as improper placement of the needle can cause patient harm. SAM <i>ThoraSite</i> is an anatomical landmark guide designed to provide a safer approach to the pleural space by pinpointing the procedure site. It establishes a limited surface area appropriate for needle insertion.</p> <p>SAM <i>ThoraSite</i> is intended for use in the fifth (5th) intercostal space at the anterior axillary line (5AAL). This is the preferred NDT site for adult patients. SAM <i>ThoraSite</i> cannot be used at the second (2nd) intercostal space at the mid-clavicular line on the anterior chest wall.</p> <p>Use of SAM <i>ThoraSite</i> is required for 5AAL NDT for patients 15 years of age and older unless there is a specific reason this cannot be accomplished.</p> <p>Clinicians must complete the formal training provided by PSTA faculty before using SAM <i>ThoraSite</i> in the field. They must utilize the process outlined therein to find the insertion site.</p> <p>Questions may be directed to the EMIHS Quality Management Battalion Chief.</p>		

