

# HEALTHEAST MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION MEDICAL OPERATIONS MANUAL

## 7S EXTERNAL JUGULAR (EJ) VEIN ACCESS

### PATIENT CARE GOALS

- Provide vascular access for patients in critical need of volume replacement or medication administration who have poor peripheral vein selection and in whom IO access is contraindicated.

### PARAMEDIC

1. Patient care goals for initiating an EJ have been met and no contraindications are present.<sup>1</sup>
2. Place the patient in a supine position, with head lower than feet if possible. This will help distend the vein and prevent air embolism.
3. If cervical spine injury is not suspected, turn patient's head away from the side to be accessed. If cervical spine injury is suspected, use one rescuer to stabilize the head in-line while the IV is started.
4. Prepare the skin with antiseptic.
5. Align the cannula with the vein, pointing the tip of the catheter towards the patient's feet.
6. With one finger, press on the vein just above the clavicle. This should make the vein more prominent (see Figure 1, right).
7. With the bevel of the needle upward, puncture the skin at a 30-degree angle. The needle tip should enter midway between the angle of the jaw and the clavicle (see Figure 2, right).
8. Cannulate the vein in the same manner as a peripheral vein.
9. Attach infusion tubing and regulate the flow of IV fluids. The fluids should run easily.
10. Secure the catheter to the skin by making a loop with the infusion tubing and taping it to the neck. This will ensure the IV stays in place should the line or bag be accidentally pulled away from the patient. Never tape circumferentially.

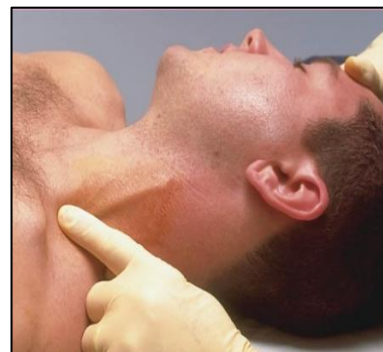


Figure 1



Figure 2

### DOCUMENTATION KEY POINTS

- Justification for using this procedure.
- Complications and patient response to procedure.

### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> External jugular vein access is **contraindicated** under the following conditions:

- Inability to visualize the vein (i.e. patient has a C-collar on)
- Obscured landmarks caused by adipose tissue, local trauma, hematoma, subcutaneous emphysema, etc.