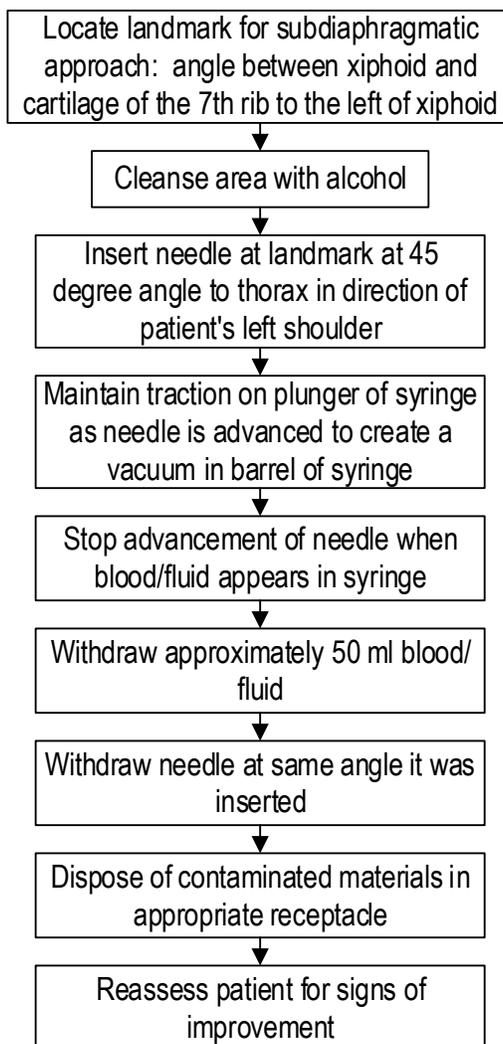


Initial: 9/92
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Revision: 3

**MILWAUKEE COUNTY EMS  
PRACTICAL SKILL  
PERICARDIOCENTESIS**

Approved: M. Riccardo Colella, DO, MPH, FACEP
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<b>Purpose:</b> To remove blood or fluid from the pericardial sac		<b>Indications:</b> Pulseless, apneic patients with signs/symptoms of pericardial tamponade
<b>Advantages:</b> Removes blood or fluid from the pericardial sac	<b>Complications:</b> Damage to the left anterior descending coronary artery Pneumothorax Laceration of myocardium	<b>Contraindications:</b> Any patient with pulses



**NOTES:**

- Signs/symptoms of pericardial tamponade are: hypotension, tachycardia, distended neck veins, narrow pulse pressure, lack of pulses with CPR.