DO NOT FORGET · THE SHORT CHECKLIST



Pericardiocentesis

Ultrasound-guided needle aspiration and drainage of a pericardial effusion to relieve cardiac tamponade.

EM Orbit

Patient reference	Date	Time	Completed by

The 4 steps that must not be missed

- [ ] BEFORE
Avoid intubation and positive-pressure ventilation before drainage if at all possible.
Induction and positive pressure can cause cardiovascular collapse in tamponade; if unavoidable, have the needle ready.

- [ ] DURING
If ST elevation, ectopic beats or arrhythmia appear on the monitor, withdraw the needle slightly.
This indicates contact with the myocardium.

- [ ] DURING
Never force the guidewire and never let go of it.
Remove wire and needle together if resistance is felt.

- [ ] AFTER
Seek urgent surgical review if bleeding continues or tamponade reaccumulates.
Ongoing haemorrhagic drainage needs definitive surgical control.



The short list: an aid to memory, not the whole procedure. The full checklist is at the QR code. It does not replace your local protocol or your clinical judgement.