

	Department Name Address	BLS	EMT
		Revision #	
		Implementation Date	
Protocol	4.1.5 Obstructed Airway	Last Reviewed/Update Date	
Author / Owner		Medical Director	

Causes of upper airway obstruction include the tongue, foreign bodies, swelling, and trauma to airway. Identifying the cause of upper airway obstruction is essential to determining treatment. The treatment goal of the patient that is choking is to relieve the patient of the obstruction, provide adequate oxygenation, provide support and timely transport to the appropriate facility.

1. Baseline care standard.
2. If patient is coughing or moving air, encourage coughing to clear the object.
3. If airway remains obstructed, perform the following for the removal of obstruction:
 - Administer standing abdominal thrusts until dislodged or patient becomes unconscious.
 - Once unconscious, lay patient supine and continue sequence of; looking for the object, attempt to ventilate, CPR, until obstruction is dislodged.
4. Establish airway per Airway Management protocol.
5. If airway is cleared, administer O₂ 15L per minute via non-rebreather mask. If airway is not cleared, repeat #3 and #4. Call for ALS intercept.
6. Transport with lights and sirens PRN.

Medical Director's Signature

Date

Disclaimer:

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