

	<b>Department Name</b> <b>Address</b>	<b>ILS</b>	<b>EMT/Intermediate</b>
		<b>Revision #</b>	
		<b>Implementation Date</b>	
<b>Protocol</b>	<b>3.1.5 Obstructed Airway</b>	<b>Last Reviewed/Update Date</b>	
<b>Author / Owner</b>		<b>Medical Director</b>	

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. If unable to dislodge a foreign body, visualize with laryngoscope and extract foreign body with Magill forceps. Use suction, if necessary, to clear airway.
5. Establish airway per Airway Management protocol.
6. If airway is cleared, administer O<sub>2</sub> 15L per minute via non-rebreather mask. If airway is not cleared, repeat #3 and #4. Call for ALS intercept.
7. Establish an IV of Normal Saline TKO.
8. Transport with lights and sirens PRN.

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*Medical Director's Signature*

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*Date*

Disclaimer:

The protocols have been developed by the North Dakota Department of Health are meant to be used as general guidance for developing protocols for individual emergency medical services agencies. These sample protocols are not meant to be medical or legal advice; nor do they establish standards of care. Each emergency medical services agency must tailor protocols based on their specific needs or capabilities. Local medical directors must be consulted with and approve any protocol(s) prior to becoming operational in an emergency medical services agency. directors must be consulted with and approve any protocol(s) prior to becoming operational in an emergency medical services agency. The North Dakota Department of Health make no representation on the accuracy of information contained herein and accepts no liability for any loss or damage arising from any content error or omission.