

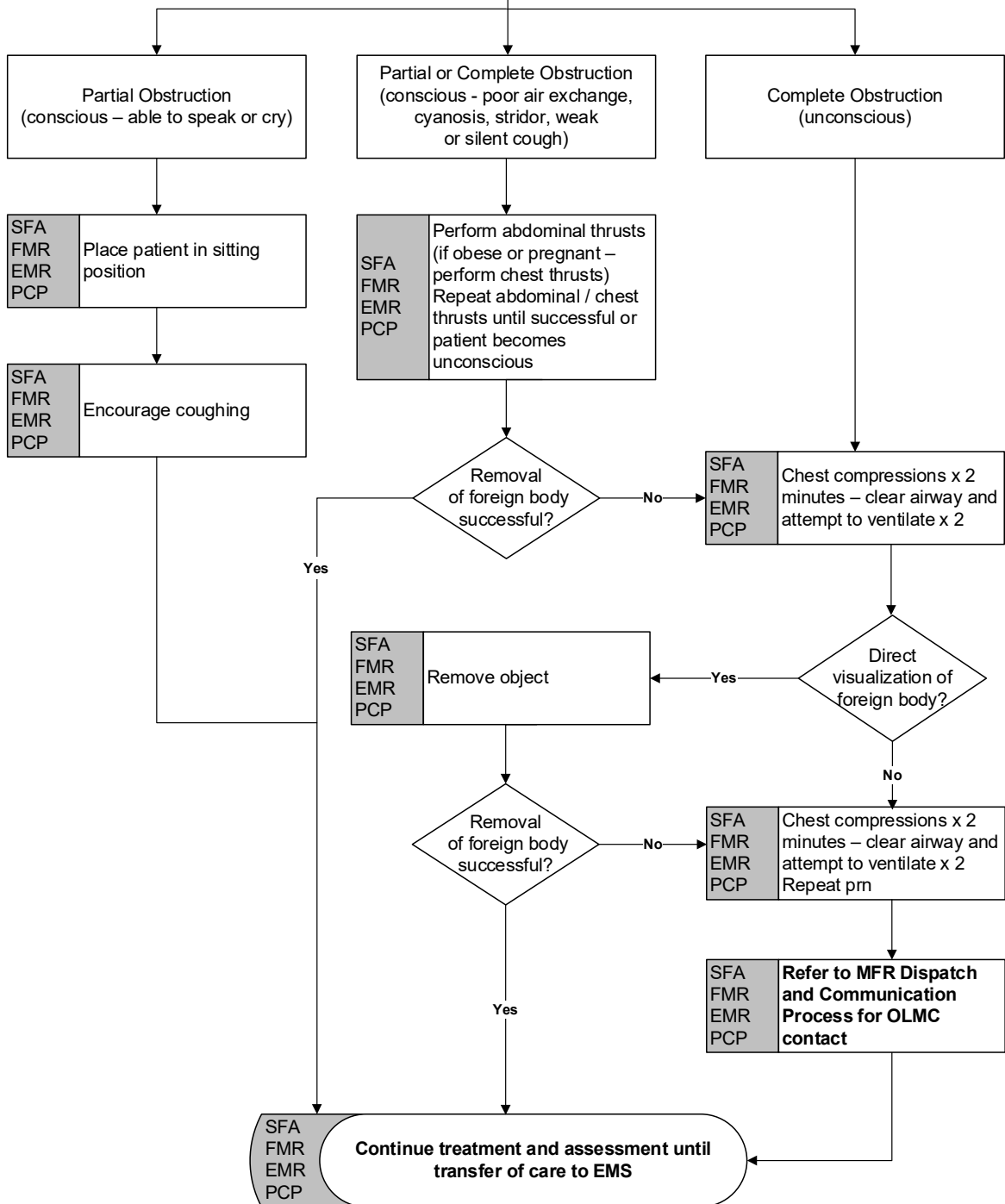
Adult Foreign Body Airway Obstruction

Infection Prevention and Control (IP&C) Considerations

- Consider Droplet and Airborne Precautions

SFA
FMR
EMR
PCP

Standard Approach and Ongoing Assessment



Etiology

Airway obstructions that are caused by the aspiration of food or objects may result in partial or complete airway obstruction. Foreign body airway obstruction can occur at any level from the hypopharynx, above or below the glottis, to the main stem bronchus

Interventions

Partial Obstructions (conscious with good air exchange)

1. Do not intervene as long as air exchange is adequate
2. Keep the patient relaxed and comfortably seated until EMS arrives

Patient Safety Considerations

- **All** patients presenting with a history of an airway obstruction requiring intervention (e.g. chest or abdominal compressions or thrusts) **AND** requesting the cancellation of EMS, **refer to Dispatch and Communication Process**

Partial (the patient can breathe but has difficulty (e.g. wheezing))

1. Have the patient cough forcefully
2. Immediate intervention is required if patient converts to a complete obstruction
3. If possible, have the patient sit down and lean forward

Complete Airway Obstruction (conscious)

1. Perform abdominal thrusts (if obese or pregnant – perform chest thrusts); continue until successful or patient becomes unconscious.

Complete Airway Obstruction (unconscious)

1. Assist the patient into the supine position
2. Start CPR. After each set of compressions, look in the mouth. If a foreign body can be seen, remove it. Do not perform blind finger sweeps because this may result in the foreign body pushed back into the airway. Open the airway with a head/tilt chin-lift or modified jaw thrust, and attempt to ventilate. If air does not go in, reposition the airway and attempt to ventilate again.
3. If air still does not go in, perform CPR. Every time you open the airway, check the mouth and remove the object if you can see it before giving 2 breaths.

The technique for relieving a complete airway obstruction is based upon the patient's age. Use abdominal thrusts to relieve choking in adults and children over 1 year of age.

Prepare all equipment for advanced airway management during the initial abdominal / chest thrusts in order to move immediately to direct visualization should the abdominal / chest thrusts be unsuccessful

Pharmacology

Not applicable

Special Circumstances

Not applicable

Infection Prevention and Control (IP&C) Considerations

Many airway management techniques known as aerosol generating medical procedures (AGMP) produce splashes of oral secretions, as well as blood, and emesis when they are present. In the presence of an infectious state, oral secretion can transmit harmful pathogens. Personal protective equipment (PPE) that protects the pre-hospital care provider's eyes, nose and mouth as a minimum is mandatory.

Most respiratory tract infections are transmitted via the droplet route, in which case a simple face mask with safety glasses or face shield offer excellent protection. Pulmonary tuberculosis is the most likely respiratory tract infection that will be encountered that requires basic or advanced airway management. Airborne precautions are mandatory, in these cases the N-95 respirator with safety glasses or face shield are required.

During AGMP's associated with seasonal, pandemic, or avian influenza-like-illness (ILI), Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome-coronavirus (SARS), Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), and rare exotic infections airborne precautions must be instituted. Often the pre-hospital care provider has no way of knowing what pathogen is the causative agent and must make a quick reactive decision to determine what PPE is required during a time sensitive emergent event.

Common AGMP performed by pre-hospital care providers:

- Suctioning
- Bag-valve-mask ventilation
- Supraglottic airway or LMA insertion

All persons participating in any AGMP must:

- Perform hand hygiene (as time permits)
- Wear a gown (as time permits)
- Wear safety glasses or face shield
- Wear an N-95 respirator
- Wear gloves