



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

TREATMENT PROTOCOL

S-121

AIRWAY OBSTRUCTION

Date: 7/1/2025

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BLS

ALS

For conscious patient

- Reassure, encourage coughing
- O₂ PRN

For inadequate air exchange

Airway maneuvers (AHA)

- Abdominal thrusts
- Use chest thrusts in obese or pregnant patients

If patient becomes unconscious or is found unconscious

- Begin CPR

Once obstruction is removed

- Ventilate with high-flow O₂ PRN
- O₂ saturation

Treat per Respiratory Distress Protocol (S-136)

If patient becomes unconscious or has decreasing LOC

- Direct or video laryngoscopy and Magill forceps, MR PRN
- Capnography

Once obstruction is removed

- Monitor/ECG
- IV/IO ^(A)

Note: If unable to ventilate effectively, transport immediately while continuing CPR (unconscious patient)