

POLICY: 554.21  
TITLE: Airway Obstruction - Stridor

EFFECTIVE: 07/01/2024  
REVIEW: 07/2027  
SUPERCEDES:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE

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## AIRWAY OBSTRUCTION - STRIDOR

- I. AUTHORITY  
Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9
- II. PURPOSE  
To serve as a patient treatment standard for EMRs, EMTs, and Paramedics within their scope of practice.
- III. PROTOCOL

**Provider Key: F = First Responder/EMR      E = EMT      O = EMT Local Optional SOP**  
**P = Paramedic                                      D = Base Hospital Physician Order Required**

	F	E	O	P	D
<b>ASSESSMENT</b>	X	X	X	X	
<b>PULSE OXIMETRY:</b> apply and monitor.		X	X	X	
<b>CAPNOGRAPHY:</b> apply and monitor.				X	
<b>OXYGEN:</b> if pulse oximetry < 94% or signs of respiratory distress or hypoperfusion.	X	X	X	X	
<b>ECG MONITOR:</b> lead placement may be delegated. Treat as indicated.				X	
<b>VASCULAR ACCESS:</b> if indicated.				X	
<b>SEVERE OBSTRUCTION - UNABLE TO COUGH OR SPEAK</b> <b>CONSIDER CAUSE - FOREIGN BODY OBSTRUCTION</b>	F	E	O	P	D
<b>ABDOMINAL THRUSTS</b>	X	X	X	X	
<b>REMOVE FOREIGN BODY</b>	X	X	X	X	
<b>LARYNGOSCOPY, SUCTION, &amp;/OR MANUAL REMOVAL</b> with Magill Forceps.				X	
<b>REASSESS:</b> repeat basic airway maneuvers until obstruction is cleared or the patient becomes unconscious.	X	X	X	X	
<b>SECURE AIRWAY:</b> consider ETI or SGA. If object not visible or lodged below the cords and patient in respiratory failure.				X	
<b>NEEDLE CRICOTHYROTOMY:</b> if unable to intubate, Quicktrach device. Ventilate with high flow oxygen.				X	

	F	E	O	P	D
<b>CONSIDER CAUSE – CROUP/EPIGLOTTIS</b>					
<b>POSITION OF COMFORT:</b> minimize stress to patient.	X	X	X	X	
<b>NEBULIZED SALINE:</b> with high flow oxygen.				X	
<b>EPINEPHRINE:</b> 1:1,000 (1 mg/mL) 2.5 mg nebulized .					X
<b>AVOID VISUALIZATION OF THROAT:</b> unless ETI required.				X	
<b>NEEDLE CRICOTHYROTOMY:</b> Quicktrach device. Ventilate with high flow oxygen.				X	