

CLEAR AN AIRWAY OBSTRUCTION

For use of this form see TC 8-800; the proponent agency is TRADOC.

TABLES: II, VI

REFERENCES: STP 8-68W13-SM-TG, Tasks: 081-831-0018, Open the Airway; 081-831-0019, Clear an Upper Airway Obstruction.

1. **Soldier** (Last Name, First Name, MI)

2. **Date** (YYYYMMDD)

CONDITIONS: Given a trauma or medical casualty requiring airway management in a clinical environment or field setting. You have been provided the necessary medical equipment. You are not in a CBRN environment.
One of the most critical skills that a Soldier Medic must know is airway management. Without proper airway management techniques and oxygen administration, your casualty may die needlessly. The Soldier Medic must be able to choose, and effectively use, the proper equipment for maintaining an open and clear airway and for administering oxygen for both medical and trauma casualties.

STANDARDS: Demonstrate the appropriate techniques and procedures for opening the casualty's airway. Perform all measures IAW STP 8-68W13-SM-TG. You must score at least 70% (10 of 13 steps) and not miss any critical (*) elements on the skill sheet.

SAFETY:

- Risk Assessment: Low. All bodily fluids should be considered potentially infectious; always observe body substance isolation (BSI)
- Precautions: Wear gloves and eye protection as a minimal standard of protection.
- Environmental: None.

NOTE: Soldier Medics must be observed. (Evaluator to Soldier Medic ratio is 1:6).

TEST SCENARIO:

While responding to an emergency call, you encounter a casualty with an altered level of consciousness. You hear noisy breath sounds coming from the casualty and you determine an airway obstruction exists. You must demonstrate the techniques and procedures for clearing an upper airway obstruction in both a conscious and unconscious casualty; you have been provided the necessary medical equipment.

3. Evaluator's Comments and After-Test Recommendations:

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**CLEAR AN AIRWAY OBSTRUCTION
Grading Sheet**

TASK	COMPLETED					
	1ST		2ND		3RD	
	P	F	P	F	P	F
4.						
* Took/verbalized body substance isolation (BSI) precautions.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
5. Conscious Casualty EVALUATOR: Inform the Soldier Medic that the casualty is conscious.						
	P	F	P	F	P	F
a. * Determined whether or not the casualty required assistance.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
b. If the casualty was lying down, brought the casualty to a sitting or standing position.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
c. * Applied abdominal thrusts.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
d. If the obstruction was cleared and the casualty began breathing on their own, placed them in the recovery position.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
6. Unconscious Casualty EVALUATOR: Inform the Soldier Medic that the casualty has collapsed and is now unconscious.						
	P	F	P	F	P	F
a. Performed head-tilt/chin-lift maneuver to clear the obstruction that may have been caused by the relaxation of the casualty's tongue and throat muscles.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
b. If the casualty was breathing on their own, placed them in the recovery position.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
c. If the casualty was not breathing, activated the emergency response system, opened the airway, and removed the obstruction if it could be seen.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
d. If the obstruction could not be seen, began CPR.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
e. Every time the airway was opened to give breaths, opened the mouth wide and looked for the obstruction. If the obstruction was seen, removed it with the fingers. If the obstruction was not seen, kept doing CPR	<input type="checkbox"/>					
f. Once the obstruction was dislodged, checked for breathing.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
g. Documented the procedure on the appropriate medical form.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
h. * Did not cause further injury to the casualty.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
* CRITICAL ELEMENTS						

CLEAR AN AIRWAY OBSTRUCTION EVALUATOR GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS

Inform the Soldier Medic of the CONDITIONS and STANDARDS as stated on this form.
Provide an optional scenario, if appropriate. This scenario should reinforce the unique or particular needs of the unit.
Allow sufficient time for the Soldier Medic to extract information from the scenario.
Provide each evaluator with the grading sheet.
Ensure the Soldier Medic has all required materials.
Explain how the exercise is graded.

Resource Requirements:

Evaluator: Grading sheet and applicable scenario.

Soldier Medic: Applicable scenario.

Additional Scoring Guidelines:

CONSCIOUS CASUALTY

Determined whether or not the casualty required assistance.

- Asked the casualty if they are choking. If the casualty nods yes, help is needed.
- If the casualty has a mild airway obstruction (*able to speak or cough forcefully, may be wheezing between coughs*), did not interfere except to encourage the casualty to continue coughing.
- If the casualty has a severe airway obstruction (*poor air exchange and increased breathing difficulty, a silent cough, cyanosis, or inability to speak or breathe*), continued with the next step.

Applied abdominal thrusts.

- Stood behind the casualty and wrapped their arms around the casualty's waist.
- Made a fist with one hand and placed the thumb side of their fist against the casualty's abdomen in the midline, slightly above the navel and well below the tip of the xiphoid process.
- Grasped their fist with their other hand and pressed into the casualty's abdomen with quick backward and upward thrusts.