

About Your Ambulance Call

09/09

Your MedStar ambulance crew is providing this brochure because we are concerned about your health and safety. Please review this guide for information and advice regarding your condition or injury.

The assessment and treatment given to you may not provide all of the medical care required for your condition. Additional treatment at a hospital or by a doctor may be necessary to ensure your health and recovery. Get needed medical attention as soon as possible.

The advice and instructions contained in this brochure are not a substitute for definitive and comprehensive treatment. When needed, we encourage you to seek additional help by contacting your doctor or medical facility, going to the emergency room or contacting the ambulance again by calling 9-1-1.

If appropriate, inform your doctor that MedStar was called and provide the information the ambulance crew recorded on this brochure.

Date: _____ **Time:** _____

Notes by crew:

Choking / Foreign Body Obstruction



Managing Care After Injury or Illness



Choking and Foreign Body Obstruction

Blockage of the airway into the lungs by food, fluids, or other foreign objects can be life threatening. Children are especially prone to choking during mealtime or when placing small objects in their mouth. Some items that initially cause choking are cleared by coughing and are then swallowed or spit out. On rare occasions, a solid object may lodge in the breathing passages or the lung. This always requires medical care.

If a large object is swallowed and gets stuck in the esophagus (food tube), it must be removed as soon as possible. If a non-food object passes into the stomach, it probably will pass through the body without causing problems. Sharp or pointed objects are more dangerous than round or smooth ones. It is sometimes difficult to tell for certain if the foreign object that caused the choking has entered the food tube or the breathing tube.

What To Watch For

If you have decided not to be transported by MedStar to a medical facility, contact your doctor or seek other medical help if any of the following develop:

- Additional choking, gagging, drooling, or vomiting

- Continued coughing, wheezing or abnormally noisy or difficult breathing
- A fever develops over 100.4°F
- Chest, neck or throat pain, or an inability to swallow or talk
- Abdominal pain or a bloody bowel movement
- If a non-food object does not pass in the stool within a few days

Consider These Actions

- If a non-food object entered the stomach, check the stool until the object has passed - putting the stool in a strainer and running water over it will make the job easier.
- There is no need to change your diet while waiting for the object to pass - **do not take any medications such as laxatives to make the object pass sooner.**
- Keep small objects, such as coins, balloons, and hard candy, out of reach of infants and toddlers.
- **If needed, seek additional help by contacting your doctor or medical facility, going to the hospital emergency room, or contact the ambulance again by calling 9-1-1.**