Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities

PROCEDURE

Procedure #: 02-ALL-0910 (SF)
Effective Date: 02-12-2024

Subject: LifeVac Utilization of Choking Rescue Device

Last Revision:

Effective Date:
Person Responsible:

HSPR Registered Nurse

Approvals/Date:

Superintendent, WCBDD

Date

epartment Director/Coordinator

Date

The following definitions will apply:

AHA - American Heart Association

ARC - American Red Cross

BLS - Basic Life Support

Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities has chosen to use LifeVac based on the available efficiency research information to date and on its uses for life saving measures. LifeVac is to be used after BLS protocol has failed and is stronger than the force of an average cough. LifeVac is a simple to use, lightweight, portable, non-powered, suction device for a choking victim. The device consists of a patented plunger attached to a one-way valve which in turn attaches to a standard pediatric or adult face mask. When the plunger is depressed, air is forced out the sides and not into the victim. Pulling back on the plunger applies suction, which removed the foreign body from the airway.

LifeVac supports all persons to be BLS (AHA/ARC) trained. All WCBDD's Rapid Response Team members and WCBDD staff will be trained every two years on LifeVac. LifeVac training courses will prepare the Rapid Response Team for choking emergencies when other methods fail. Training will be completed on LifeVac.net (below QR Code). After completion, a certification will be provided from LifeVac. Devices will be kept in all emergency bags in each of the 3 buildings and with the Special Olympics' bag.



LifeVac can be performed on yourself. LifeVac can be performed on someone standing, sitting, or laying down. This is beneficial for those strapped into a wheelchair or car seat.

- If someone is choking and coughing, remember to allow and encourage them to keep coughing.
- 2. If the person stops coughing, call 911 immediately, initiate the Rapid Response Team, and attempt the AHA 5 back blows and then 5 abdominal thrusts.
- 3. Continue treating the person until a) they become unconscious, b) help arrives or c) the item is dislodged, and the person is breathing.
- 4. If the above is not successful and does not remove the object: See the procedure below Place, Push, Pull.

Procedural: Attach the device to the standard adult or infant face mask based on the person's size.

- 1. Place the face mask over the mouth and nose of the choking victim, using your hand to create a seal.
- 2. Press down to expel air through the sides of the device.
- 3. While maintaining a seal between the facemask and the victim's face, **Pull** up forcefully on the device to create suction and dislodge the airway obstruction.

LifeVac should not be used with an endotracheal tube already in place. The use of this device is also contraindicated if the patient is NOT choking or is breathing on their own. It should only be used for resuscitating a choking person.

References: Ohio Law - Section 1737.30

ORC 5123:02;

November 2020 #18-11-20 Health and Welfare Alert

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Committee on Injury, Violence, and Poison Prevention. Prevention of choking among children. Pediatrics 2010' 125:601-7. Https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2009-2862.

LifeVac https://lifevac.life Dechoker https://dechoker.com

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