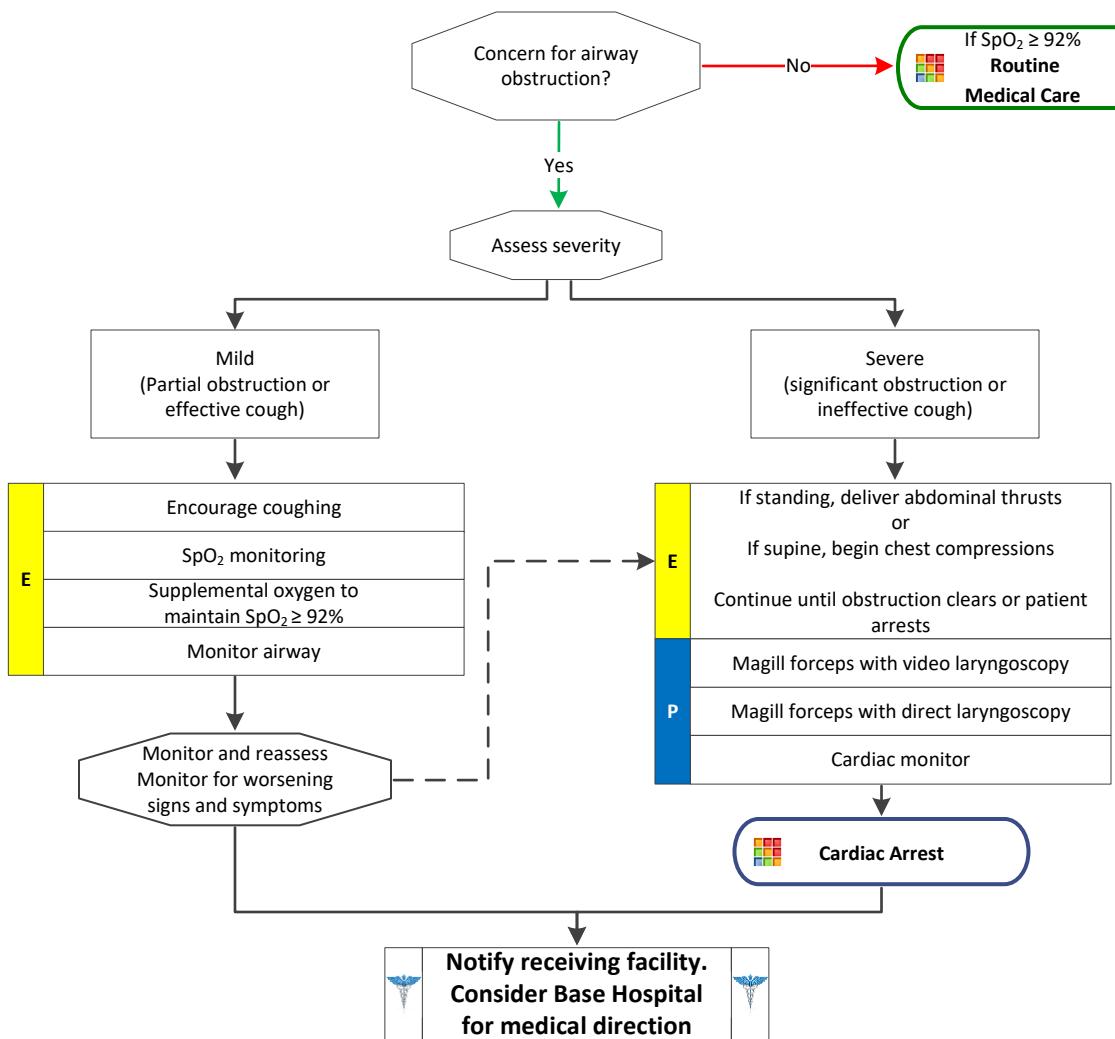


Airway Obstruction/Choking

For any upper airway emergency including choking, foreign body, swelling, stridor, croup, and obstructed tracheostomy

History	Signs and Symptoms	Differential
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sudden onset of shortness of breath/coughing Recent history of eating or food present History of stroke or swallowing problems Past medical history Sudden loss of speech Syncope 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sudden onset of coughing, wheezing or gagging Stridor Inability to talk Universal sign for choking Panic Pointing to throat Syncope Cyanosis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foreign body aspiration Food bolus aspiration Epiglottitis Syncope Hypoxia Asthma/COPD CHF exacerbation Anaphylaxis Massive pulmonary embolus

**Pearls**

- Bag valve mask can force the food obstruction deeper
- If unable to bag valve mask, consider a foreign body obstruction, particularly after proper airway maneuvers have been performed
- For obese and pregnant victims, put your hands at the base of their breastbones, right where the lowest ribs join together
- If foreign body is below cords and chest compressions fail to dislodge obstruction, consider intubation and forcing foreign body into right main stem bronchus.

