

Report Date: 06 Jun 2012

**Summary Report for Individual Task
081-833-0008
Initiate Treatment for a Respiratory Emergency
Status: Approved**

DISTRIBUTION RESTRICTION: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

DESTRUCTION NOTICE: None

Condition: You have a conscious patient with a respiratory emergency. You will need a stethoscope, pulse oximeter, oxygen tank, nasal cannula, oxygen mask and tubing, hand held metered dose inhaler (MDI) with spacer and the patient's medical records or a DD Form 1380 Field Medical Card (FMC). You are not in a CBRN environment.

Standard: Correctly identify and initiate treatment for the respiratory emergency without causing further harm to the patient.

Special Condition: None

Special Standards: None

Special Equipment:

Safety Level: Low

MOPP:

Task Statements

Cue: None

DANGER
None

WARNING
None

CAUTION
None

Remarks: None

Notes: None

Performance Steps

1. Examine the patient.

CAUTION

A patient experiencing respiratory distress can rapidly progress to full arrest. Always be prepared to utilize advanced airway procedures.

a. Assess the airway and open it, if necessary. (See task 081-831-0018.)

(1) Ask the patient a question requiring more than a yes or no answer.

(2) Note whether or not the patient can speak in full sentences.

(3) Look for the presence of drooling that may indicate a partial or complete airway obstruction.

b. Assist with artificial ventilations if respiratory effort and rate are inadequate.

(1) Look for the rise and fall of the chest during inspiration and expiration.

(2) Listen for the presence of noisy respirations (e.g., stridor, wheezing).

c. Apply supplemental oxygen by mask or nasal cannula.

Note: Any patient complaining of difficulty breathing should receive supplemental oxygen.

d. Place the patient in the position of comfort.

Note: Most patients experiencing difficulty breathing prefer to remain in a seated position.

e. Obtain a complete set of vital signs to include pulse oximetry, if available.

2. Perform a focused physical examination.

a. Listen to the anterior and posterior lung fields with the stethoscope.

b. Look at the chest and abdomen and note the presence of any retractions.

c. Check the skin for the presence of cyanosis.

d. Check the lower extremities for the presence of edema.

3. Obtain a focused history.

a. Ask the patient if there is an existing condition such as asthma.

b. Ask the patient if he is taking any medications.

c. Question the patient about allergies to medications.

d. Ask the patient if difficulty breathing was of sudden or gradual onset.

4. Assist the patient in using a metered dose inhaler.

Note: This step may only be performed if the patient has an inhaler prescribed to him.

a. Perform the five rights of medication usage.

b. Have the patient exhale deeply.

c. Have the patient place his lips around the opening and press the inhaler to activate the spray as he inhales deeply.

d. Instruct the patient to hold his breath as long as possible before exhaling.

e. Repeat steps 4b through 4d.

5. Document the procedure.

6. Transport the patient.

(Asterisks indicates a leader performance step.)

Evaluation Preparation: Setup: For training and evaluation, use another Soldier to be the simulated patient.

Brief Soldier: Tell the Soldier the simulated patient has a respiratory emergency and they will need to initiate treatment.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES	GO	NO-GO	N/A
1. Examined the patient.			
2. Performed a focused physical examination.			
3. Obtained a focused history.			
4. Assisted the patient in using a metered dose inhaler.			
5. Documented the procedure.			
6. Transported the patient.			

Supporting Reference(s):

Step Number	Reference ID	Reference Name	Required	Primary
	0-13-119265-5	EMT Complete: A Basic Worktext	No	No
	DD FORM 1380	US Field Medical Card	Yes	No

Environment: Environmental protection is not just the law but the right thing to do. It is a continual process and starts with deliberate planning. Always be alert to ways to protect our environment during training and missions. In doing so, you will contribute to the sustainment of our training resources while protecting people and the environment from harmful effects. Refer to FM 3-34.5 Environmental Considerations and GTA 05-08-002 ENVIRONMENTAL-RELATED RISK ASSESSMENT.

Safety: In a training environment, leaders must perform a risk assessment in accordance with FM 5-19, Composite Risk Management. Leaders will complete a DA Form 7566 COMPOSITE RISK MANAGEMENT WORKSHEET during the planning and completion of each task and sub-task by assessing mission, enemy, terrain and weather, troops and support available-time available and civil considerations, (METT-TC). Note: During MOPP training, leaders must ensure personnel are monitored for potential heat injury. Local policies and procedures must be followed during times of increased heat category in order to avoid heat related injury. Consider the MOPP work/rest cycles and water replacement guidelines IAW FM 3-11.4, NBC Protection, FM 3-11.5, CBRN Decontamination.

Prerequisite Individual Tasks : None

Supporting Individual Tasks :

Task Number	Title	Proponent	Status
081-831-0018	Open the Airway	081 - Medical (Individual)	Approved

Supported Individual Tasks : None

Supported Collective Tasks :

Task Number	Title	Proponent	Status
N/A	N/A	Not Selected	Obsolete