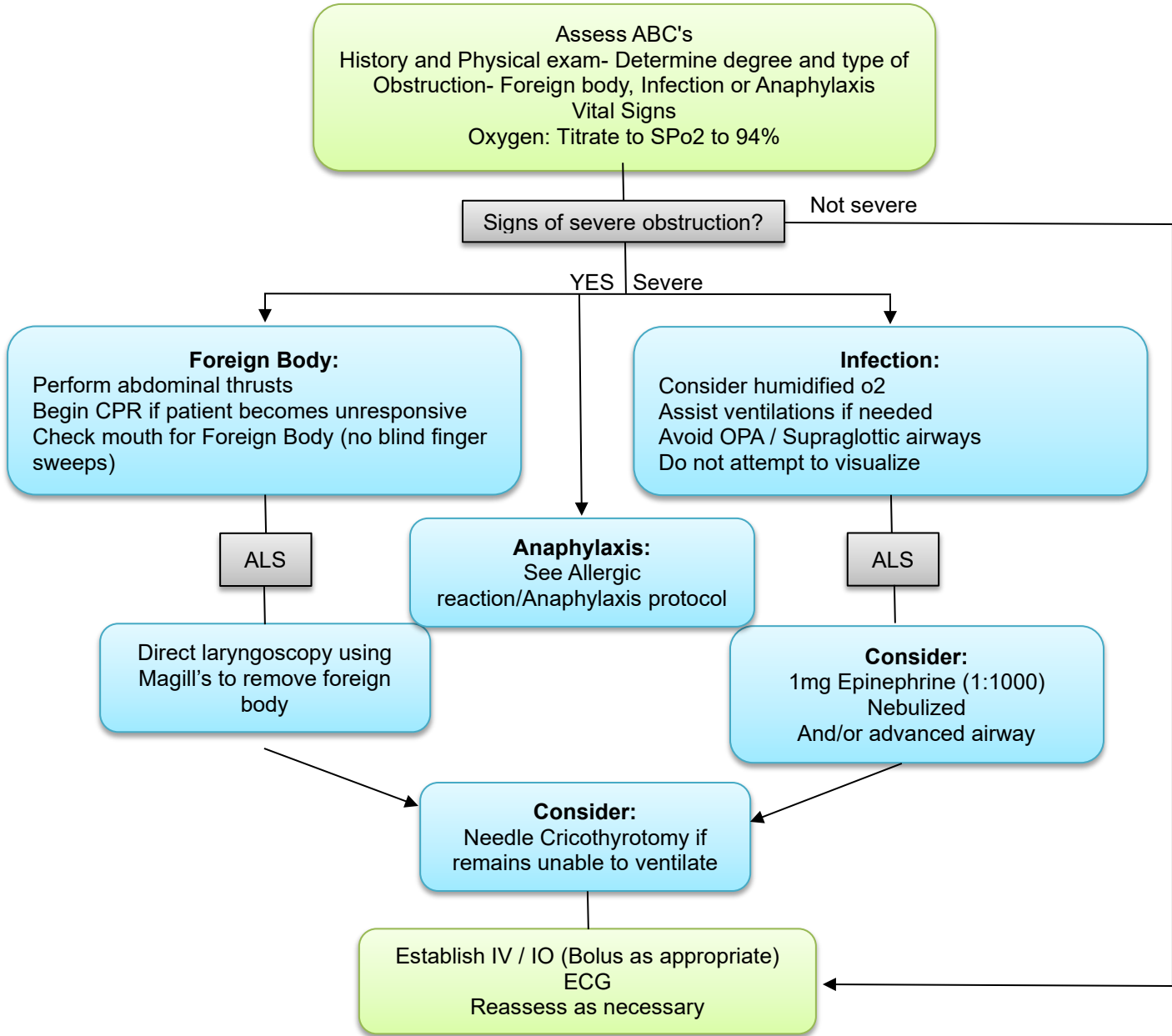
	1204	<b>Adult Airway Obstruction</b>
Nor-Cal EMS Policy & Procedure Manual		Treatment Guidelines
Effective Date: 03/01/2023		Next Revision: 03/01/2026
Approval: Jeffrey Kepple MD – MEDICAL DIRECTOR		SIGNATURE ON FILE

## Authority

Health and Safety Code Division 2.5, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9.



**Signs of severe obstruction:**  
 Poor air exchange  
 Cyanosis  
 Silent cough  
 Increased difficulty breathing

**Indications for Needle Cricothyrotomy:**  
 Complete airway obstruction with inability to  
 remove foreign body by other means

**Contraindications for Needle Cricothyrotomy:**  
 Less than 3 years old  
 Less than 15 kg