

Title	IMDG Code 2016 / SUPPLEMENT / MFAG / Table 4
Effective Date	1-1-2012
Invalid from	1-1-2014
Note	Incorporating Amendment 35-10

TABLE 4

CHEMICAL-INDUCED DISTURBANCES OF CONSCIOUSNESS

Chemicals, whether inhaled, ingested or absorbed through the skin, can either depress or excite the brain. In cases of severe poisoning, the casualty may not only be unconscious but breathing may also be depressed or absent. Fortunately, in most cases, symptoms usually resolve rapidly when the casualty is removed from the polluted environment.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Drowsy but breathing adequately

TREATMENT

- After removal of the casualty from the polluted environment, eye and skin decontamination should be undertaken, if necessary.
- After decontamination the casualty should be observed in a place of safety for at least eight hours. Usually no specific treatment is necessary.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Increasing loss of consciousness but breathing adequately

TREATMENT

- Place casualty in the recovery position.



- Remove any loose dentures.
- Clean any vomit from the mouth and back of the throat.
- Turn casualty face down, head to one side as pictured; no pillows should be used under the head.
- Clear out any vomit in the mouth as soon as vomiting occurs.
- The casualty must never be left alone or unwatched in case he vomits, has a fit or may fall out of his bunk.
- Turn the casualty gently every three hours and roll him smoothly from one side to the other.



- The head must always be kept back with a chin-up position when actually turning, and, at no time must the head be allowed to bend forwards with the chin sagging.
- If possible insert a Guedel airway.

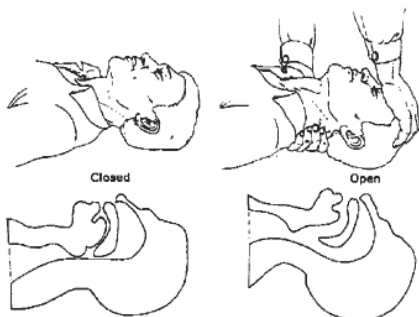
- **RADIO FOR MEDICAL ADVICE IN ALL CASES**

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

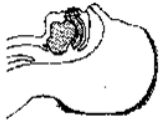
Unconsciousness with less than eight respirations of normal depth per minute

TREATMENT

- Place the casualty on his back.
- Tilt the head firmly backwards with one hand while lifting the neck with the other hand to relieve obstructed breathing.



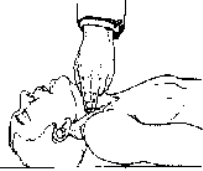
- Once a clear and open airway is established, insert a Guedel airway: **See Appendix 3**



- Administer controlled ventilation.

Further advice on controlled ventilation: See Table 3

- Check for a pulse. The best pulse to feel in an emergency is the carotid. Feel for five seconds before deciding it is absent. If it cannot be felt or is feeble, there is insufficient circulation.



- It should be felt after the first minute of artificial respiration and checked every two minutes thereafter.

- If morphine has been administered: See Table 13

- RADIO FOR MEDICAL ADVICE IN ALL CASES

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Prolonged coma with or without breathing difficulty

TREATMENT

- RADIO MEDICAL ADVICE IN ALL CASES

- Regularly assess that breathing is adequate. Give ventilation support with eight litres of oxygen per minute if the victim does not breathe adequately.

Further advice on care of unconscious casualties: See Appendix 4

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Toxic mental confusion (agitation, hallucinations)

TREATMENT

- If the casualty is difficult to manage give diazepam 10 mg as rectal solution.

Further advice on treatment of agitation and hallucinations: See Table 6

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Toxic mental confusion (agitation, hallucinations)

TREATMENT

Convulsions (seizures, fits)

- Ensure that there are no hard or sharp objects in the vicinity so that the victim will not injure himself.

- Give diazepam 10 mg as rectal solution.

- RADIO FOR MEDICAL ADVICE

- If medical advice is unavailable and seizures continue give a further 10 mg diazepam as rectal solution after 30 minutes.

Further advice on treatment of convulsions: See Table 5