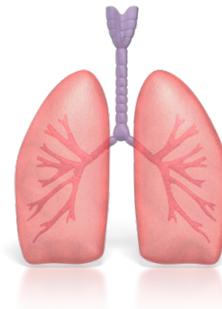




Title ECHO Level Breathing	Date 02/04/2020
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Breathing problems can occur for multiple reasons and can vary from serious medical emergencies to minor issues. However, we are unable to tell the difference when speaking to them on the phone and for this reason we need to treat every call as if it were an emergency. While breathing problems calls are fairly frequent, there are a few phrases to listen for that will change the way we send a response. In Additional Information, there are INEFFECTIVE BREATHING phrases that if mentioned at any time during Case Entry, we will use the ECHO level determinant code. We will accomplish this by selecting "INEFFECTIVE/AGONAL breathing" to Case Entry question, "Is s/he breathing?" These phrases are:

- Barely breathing
- Can't breathe at all
- Fighting for air
- Gasping for air
- Just a little
- Making funny noises
- Not breathing
- Turning blue or turning purple



Keep in mind that we will send an ECHO level response if a phrase is given that can be considered a reasonable equivalent such as "kind of breathing". If speaking to a 1st party caller, we as the EMD can make the decision to ECHO the call if the patient is clearly struggling to breathe even if one of these phrases is not given.

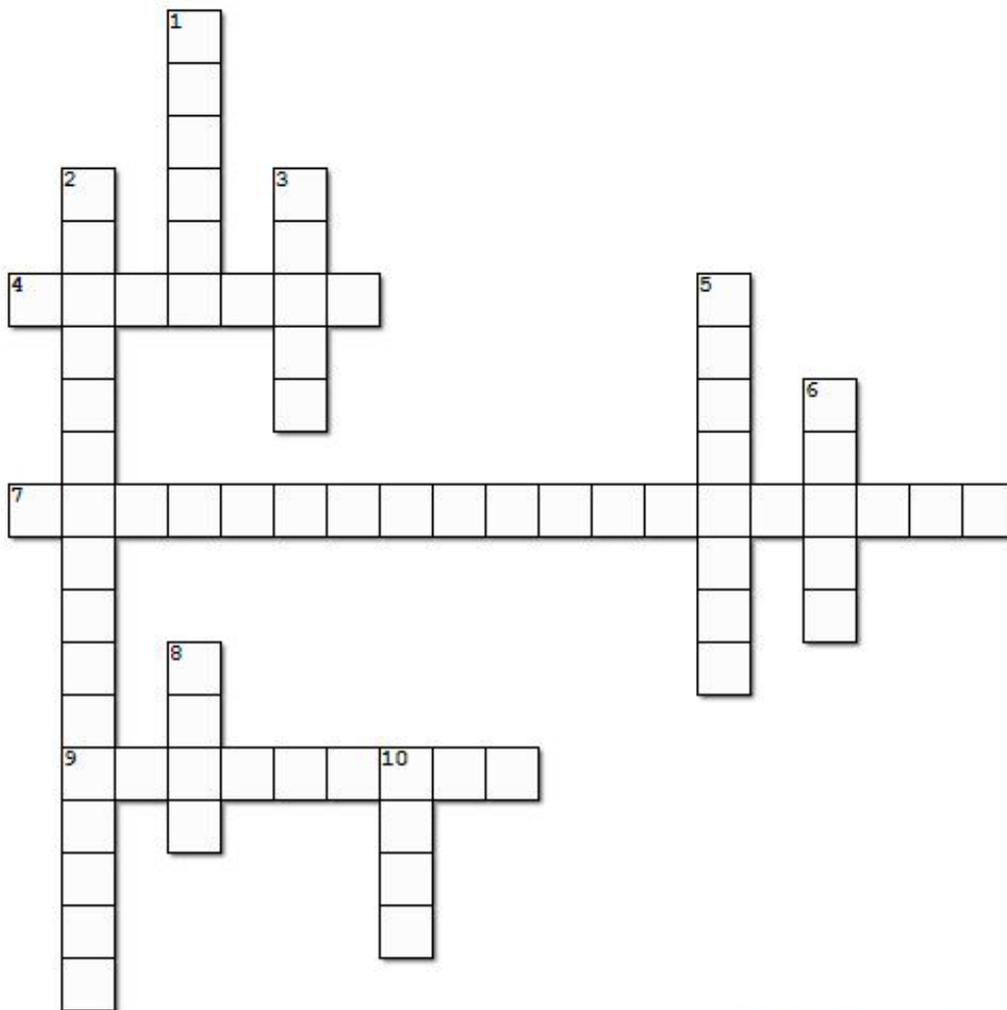


Because difficulty breathing is a priority symptom, we need to give consideration to this when selecting a Chief Complaint. However, thorough investigation of exactly what happened will truly determine the correct protocol by addressing the mechanism of injury. For example, if the patient is having trouble breathing due to an allergic reaction, we will be on Protocol 2 and can still send an ECHO from that protocol.

Remember that if a patient is awake and having trouble breathing, we don't want to lay them down since it can make it harder for them to breathe.



Complete the crossword puzzle below



Across

- 4. Unable to complete a full sentence without taking a breath is difficulty speaking between...
- 7. Suffix of 'O'
- 9. Loss of air sac function

Down

- 1. Suffix of 'A'
- 2. Is not considered difficulty or abnormal breathing
- 3. A color change of clinical significance
- 5. A color change of clinical significance
- 6. Clammy or cold sweats is coded as a...
- 8. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
- 10. INEFFECTIVE/AGONAL breathing is coded as an...



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I verify that I read and am familiar with the contents of this document.

Please return this to your agency's training coordinator for CDE credit. If you have any questions please contact us at 911training@elpasoteller911.org

X _____

Signature

DATE

X _____

Printed Name

X _____

Agency