

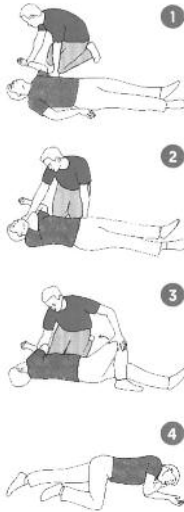
THE RECOVERY POSITION

When an unconscious person is lying on their back, there are two main dangers that can compromise the airway:

The Tongue Touching the back of the throat.
Vomit If the patient is sick.

By placing the casualty in the recovery position, the tongue won't touch the back of the throat. If the casualty is sick, the vomit will run out of the mouth and keep the airway clear.

- Remove the patient's glasses.
- Kneel beside the patient and make sure that both their legs are straight.
- Make sure that the airway is still open (head tilt, chin lift).
- Place the arm nearest you out at right angles to the body, elbow bent with palm uppermost **[Picture 1]**.
- Bring the patient's far arm across their chest, and hold the back of that hand against their cheek **[Picture 2]**.
- With your other hand, grasp the far leg just above the knee, and pull it up, keeping the foot on the ground **[Picture 3]**.
- Keeping their hand pressed against their cheek, pull on the leg to roll them towards you, onto their side.
- Adjust the upper leg so that both the hip and the knee are bent at right angles **[Picture 4]**.
- Tilt the head back to make sure the airway remains open.
- Adjust the hand under the cheek, if necessary, to keep the head tilted.
- Dial 999 for an ambulance if this has not already been done.
- Check breathing regularly. Monitor the pulse in the lower arm (radial) if possible.
- If the patient is in the recovery position for a long period of time, turn them onto their opposite side every 30 minutes.



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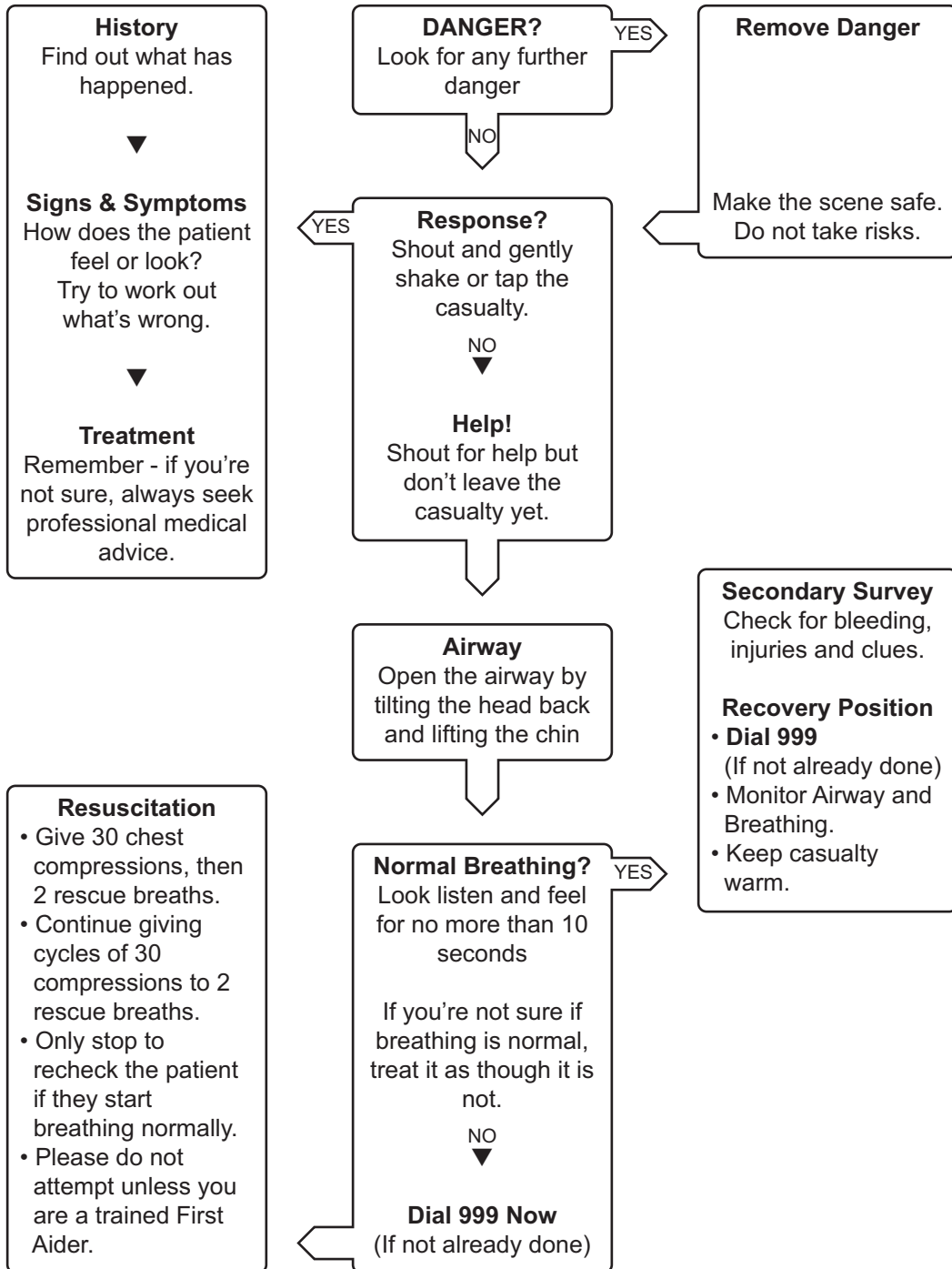
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Guidance Leaflet

EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN



SECONDARY SURVEY

If a casualty is unconscious and you are concerned about the airway for any reason (e.g. vomiting), place them in the recovery position immediately.

The Secondary Survey should be done quickly and systematically, first checking for major bleeding and then broken bones.

Bleeding

- Do a quick head to toe check for bleeding.
- Check the hidden area such as under the arch of the back.
- Control any major bleeding that you find.

Head & Neck

- Clues to injury could be bruising, swelling, deformity or bleeding.
- Check the whole head and face.
- Feel the back of the neck.
- Has the patient had an accident that might have injured the neck?

Shoulders & Chest

- Place your hands on opposite shoulders and compare them.
- Run your fingers down the collar bones, checking for signs of a fracture.
- Gently squeeze and rock the ribs.

Abdomen & Pelvis

- Push the abdomen with the palm of your hand to check for abnormality or response to pain.
- Gently check the pelvis for signs of a fracture.
- Look for incontinence or bleeding.

Legs & Arms

- Feel each leg for the signs of a fracture.
- Feel each arm for the signs of a fracture.
- Look for other clues (medic alert bracelets, needle marks, etc.)