



# Near Drowning For CHO/SN





# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of the session, you will be able to:

- List the life threatening signs of near drowning.
- Describe the management of near drowning at SHC-HWC level.



# DEFINITION

- Even though we use the word “drowning” commonly to refer to suffocation from water entering the nose and mouth of a person, the correct word to be used is “near-drowning” which means almost dying from suffocating under water.
- This is the stage where emergency care is needed to save the victim’s life.





# SYMPTOMS & SIGNS

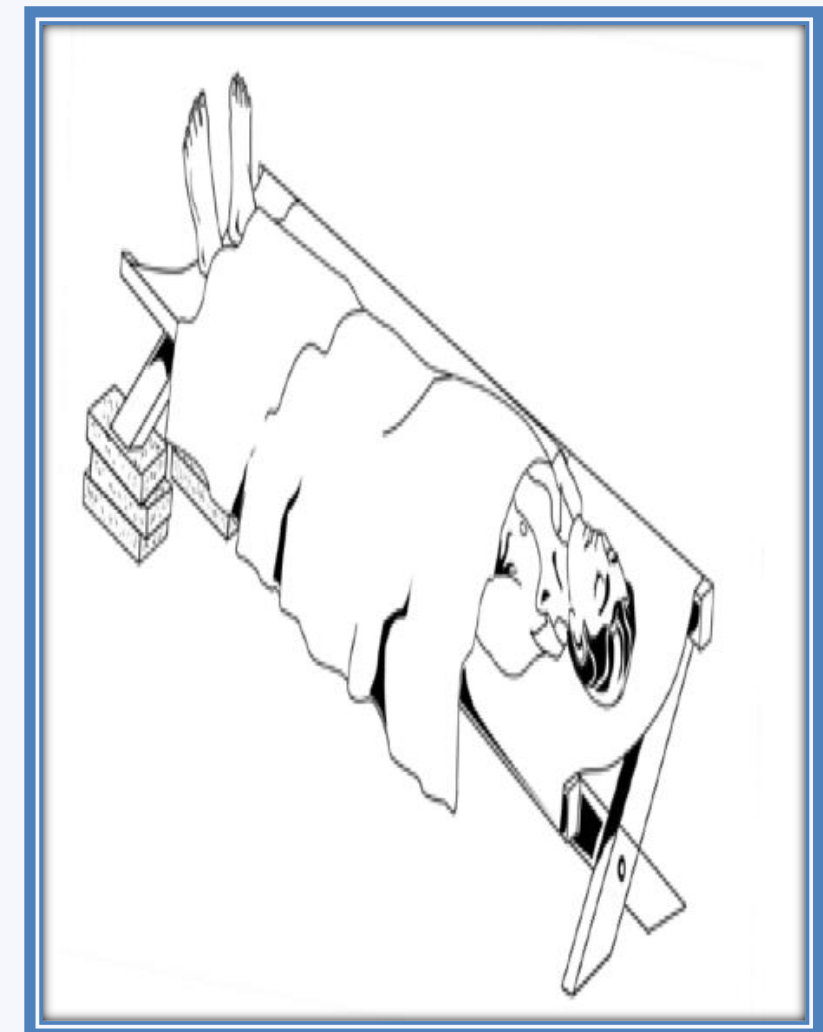
- A victim of near-drowning could most probably be unresponsive which you will learn when you conduct AVPU
- Signs that are life-threatening are:
  - Cold or bluish skin
  - Abdominal swelling
  - Chest pain
  - Cough
  - Vomiting
  - No breathing
  - Erratic breathing
  - No pulse
  - Nail beds, slow or no circulation
  - Mouth, nose or skin turning blue





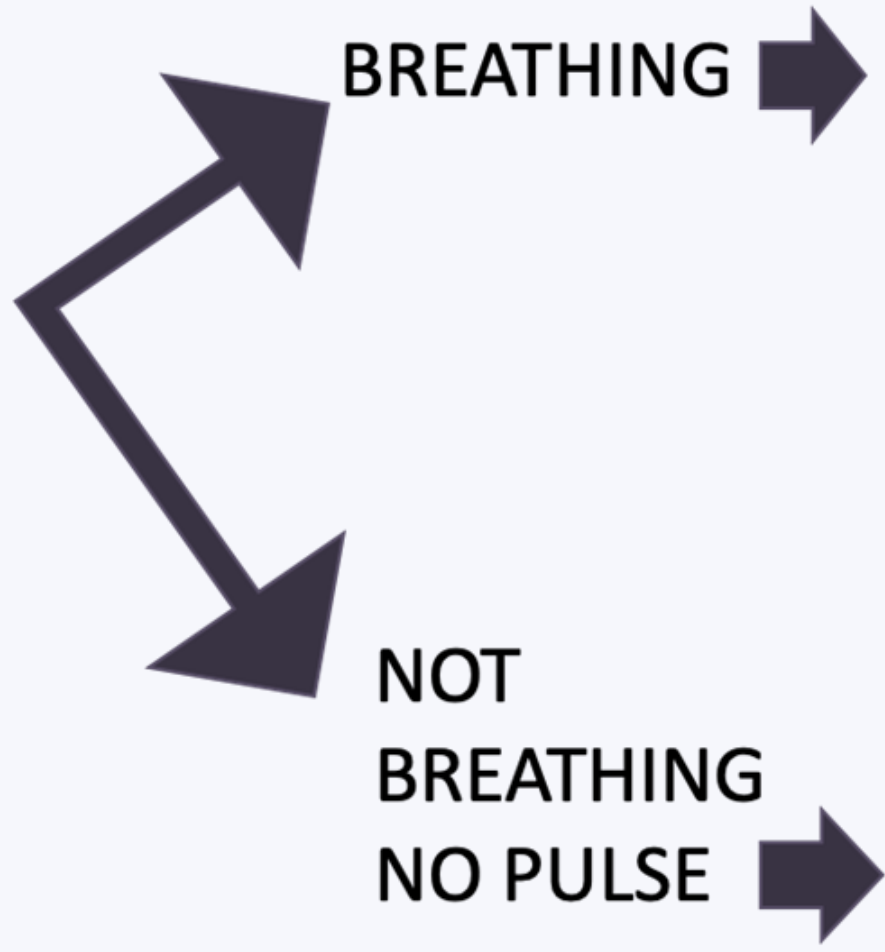
# MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL AT THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTRE

- AVPU and ABCDE are extremely important in cases of near-drowning as the victim might be unresponsive on assessment and may be in need of CPR or assisted breathing.
- When you Check for ABCDE in a victim of near-drowning, you could follow the mentioned approach.





**Check for the victim's breathing (Use look, listen, feel)**  
**Look for visible movement of chest**  
**Listen for breathing sound**  
**Feel the victim's pulse**



**If no spinal injury, Put the victim in recovery position**  
**Cover the victim in warm blanket- keep victim warm**  
**Observe**

**Give urgent CPR**



# SPECIFIC MEASURES (COMMUNITY LEVEL)



Call ambulance for referral to higher centre  
Remove the victim from water immediately

Assess for breathing. If the victim is breathing then place him/her in recovery position. If the victim is not breathing or moving then he/she might require cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) (As shown in the previous section)

Be very careful when handling the person and performing and performing CPR, as the individual could have a neck or spinal injury. Do not move or turn their neck or head. Stabilize the neck by manually holding the head and neck in place or by placing rolled towels or other similar objects around the neck to support it.

Remove the victim's wet clothes and cover the victim with a blanket to prevent hypothermia (support the neck while removing the victim's clothes)

Remove any visible foreign body, weed, sand or mud from the mouth of the victim

Transfer the victim to the appropriate nearest health facility immediately





# PREVENTION AND AWARENESS GENERATION AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL

- Do not leave infants and small children unattended around water bodies.
- Do not leave vessels filled with water uncovered around small infants and children eg. Buckets, drums etc.
- Avoiding alcohol consumption while driving or boating or playing near water bodies







# EVALUATION

- Give any 2 life-threatening signs in case of near drowning?
- If a near drowning victim is not breathing and has no pulse, first action of the CHO should be to cover the patient with blanket.  
True/False
- To check for the victim's breathing, use look, ....., and feel.
- Before placing a near drowning victim in recovery position, make sure ----- .....



# ANSWERS

- Give any 2 life-threatening signs in case of near drowning?
  - No breathing, no pulse, cyanosis
- If a near drowning victim is not breathing and has no pulse, first action of the CHO should be to cover the patient with blanket.
  - False
- To check for the victim's breathing, use look, ....., and feel.
  - Listen
- Before placing a near drowning victim in recovery position, make sure ---  
.....
  - There is no spinal Injury





# Thank You

