



If you note any of the following signs or symptoms, it could mean a resident is at increased risk of choking. Alert your manager right away so they can contact the resident's healthcare provider. For immediate emergencies', please call 911.

- Nerve and/or muscle function changes and/or changes in speech
- General weakness
- Having pain while swallowing
- Difficulty swallowing or unable to swallow
- Reports feeling like food is stuck in his/her throat, chest, or behind breastbone
- Drooling
- Hoarse voice
- Reports frequent heartburn
- Coughing or gagging when swallowing
- Having to cut food into smaller pieces or avoiding certain foods because of trouble swallowing
- Inability to talk
- Difficulty breathing or noisy breathing including squeaky sounds
- History of aspirating or aspiration pneumonia
- History of weight loss
- Difficulty starting to swallow
- Vomiting up recently swallowed food
- Reports swallowed food "stuck" in throat
- History or reports of dry mouth or eyes - may mean resident is not making enough saliva
- Current or history of neck or throat cancer

References

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