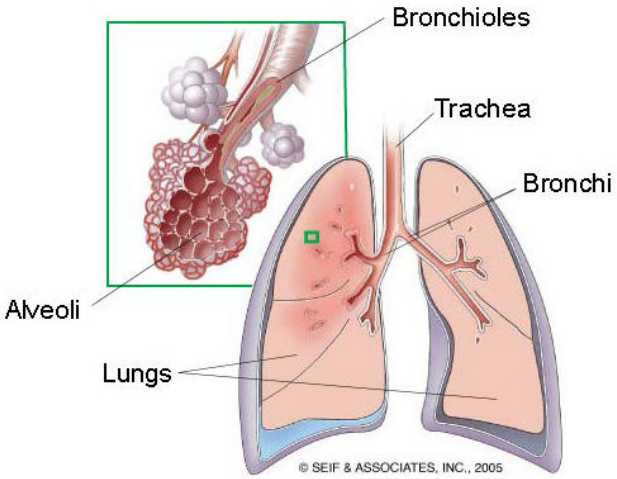
Chemical Inhalation

Your caregiver has diagnosed you as suffering from chemical *inhalation* (breathing in). Inhaling chemical gas is dangerous. It causes an irritation of the linings of the breathing tubes within the lungs. If this irritation or reaction to the chemical is bad, it can cause difficulty breathing.



Do not return to the area of the chemical exposure until authorities tell you it is safe.

Chemical inhalation is often treated with observation. Observation may often be carried out at home. If the reaction has been severe hospitalization may be required. Sometimes anti-inflammatory medications are necessary. These are medications which decrease the *inflammation* (soreness from use) in the lungs. If hospitalization is required, it will be necessary for you to remain in the hospital until your breathing is close to normal and it is safe for you to go home.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You or your child has an oral temperature above 102° F (38.9° C).

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You have wheezing, difficulty breathing, continuous cough, *nausea* (feeling sick to your stomach) or vomiting.
- You have shortness of breath with your usual activities, or if your heart seems to beat too fast with *minimal* (very little) exercise.
- You become confused, irritable, or unusually sleepy. Have someone drive you to the emergency department or call 911. DO NOT drive yourself. A re-check will determine if hospitalization is necessary for closer observation and/or treatment.

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