**Syncope: Fainting**

**IV. VASOVAGAL RESPONSE TO INJECTION: Medication**

**A. Treatment: Ammonia capsule if needed.**

1. If the individual “feels faint” and remains conscious:
   - Client becomes pale.
     - Check pulse.*
   - Client reports feeling faint, light headed, and dizzy, nauseated, or is cold and clammy (diaphoretic)
     - Have patient sit with their head down for several minutes
     - Lay flat with feet elevated
   - Take vital signs and document event
   - Watch closely for changes in condition

2. **Unconsciousness:**
   - Client collapses suddenly to unconsciousness, BUT maintains a slow, steady, strong pulse, normal respirations and blood pressure.
     - Place flat on back, with feet elevated
     - May use an ammonia ampule (crush and wave near patient's nose)
   - Unconsciousness from fainting should only last seconds

3. Have patient rest in a quiet area for 10 minutes after regaining consciousness. Slowly have patient move to a sitting position and then standing, checking to make sure no symptoms recur.

4. **No response to ammonia capsule:**
   - Go to the anaphylaxis section.

*Anaphylaxis can be distinguished from a vasovagal response by the quality of the pulse. In the case of anaphylaxis, the pulse may be rapid, thready, and weak. The patient’s blood pressure may be falling.*