

EL DORADO COUNTY EMS AGENCY

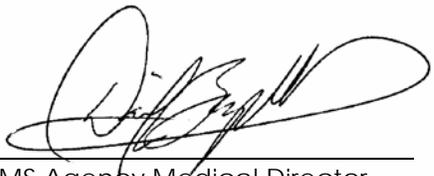
FIELD PROCEDURES

Supersedes: N/A

Effective: July 1, 2012

Revised: August 19, 2016

Scope: BLS and ALS Personnel



EMS Agency Medical Director

TOURNIQUET FOR HEMORRHAGE CONTROL

PURPOSE:

To control blood flow (ONLY) in an extremity in the event of a traumatic wound with significant hemorrhage.

INDICATIONS:

Uncontrolled hemorrhage of an extremity secondary to a traumatic injury.

- Attempt tourniquet after **direct pressure** has failed to adequately control hemorrhage

COMPLICATIONS:

- Nerve damage
- Permanent loss of extremity below tourniquet
- Areas such as the proximal thigh may be difficult to control, and lower leg hemorrhage often requires tourniquet application above the knee for adequate occlusion

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- None

PROCEDURE:

1. Apply direct pressure to the wound.
2. If bleeding persists after direct pressure apply a tourniquet.
3. Select an appropriate site. The tourniquet should always be between the wound and the heart.
4. Apply tourniquet 2 – 4 inches above the wound site.
5. Tighten tourniquet until there is no distal pulse palpable and bleeding has stopped.
 - a. There may be damage to an artery that can result in an absence of a distal pulse. Monitor bleeding to ensure that it has stopped.
 - b. If you cannot be sure the bleeding has stopped, tighten the device until it cannot tighten any more.
6. If you are using triangle bandages or cravats as tourniquets, wrap the material around the injured limb and tie a knot over the pad. Slip a rigid device such as a pair of scissors into the knot and rotate to tighten the tourniquet. (Resist the urge to use a pencil or pen due to frequent breaking). Tighten to the point where a distal pulse cannot be felt.
7. Secure tourniquet to prevent any loosening from occurring.
8. Document on patient the TIME the tourniquet was applied.
9. **DO NOT COVER THE EXTREMITY.** You must visually monitor the wound site, and leave tourniquet in open view.
10. Continue to reassess tourniquet(s) and adjust as needed.

Note: **DO NOT** place a tourniquet on the trunk or head. These wounds need a hemostatic dressing with direct pressure.