

EL DORADO COUNTY EMS AGENCY

TEMS PROCEDURE

Supersedes: N/A

Effective: July 14, 2010

Reviewed: N/A

Scope: TEMS Qualified Personnel



EMS Agency Medical Director

TOURNIQUET FOR HEMORRHAGE CONTROL

AUTHORITY:

California POST/EMSA Operational Programs and Standardized Training Recommendations Manual.

PURPOSE:

To completely stop blood flow of 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 and/or a pressure bandage is unsuccessful*

COMPLICATIONS:

- Nerve damage
- Permanent loss of extremity below tourniquet

PROCEDURE:

1. Have patient apply pressure to nearest pressure point to decrease blood flow.
2. Apply tourniquet 2 – 3 inches above the site.
3. Tighten tourniquet until there is a loss of peripheral pulse or blood loss has stopped.
4. Secure tourniquet to prevent any loosening from occurring.
5. Document on patient the TIME the tourniquet was applied.
6. Continue to reassess tourniquet and adjust as needed.

***A tactical paramedic may choose to apply a tourniquet before attempting direct pressure or pressure point when deemed necessary in a tactical environment.**