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TOURNIQUETS: INDICATIONS AND PROCEDURE

INDICATIONS:

• Use of a tourniquet is appropriate when upper or lower extremity hemorrhage cannot be controlled by applying direct pressure to the site of bleeding.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

None.

EQUIPMENT:

- An OCEMS approved tourniquet device.
- Personal protective equipment, dressings and bandages.

PROCEDURE:

- Always use personal protective equipment (PPE) appropriate for potential blood exposure.
- Visually inspect injured extremity and avoid placement of a tourniquet over joint, angulated or open fracture, stab or gun shot wound sites.
- Assess and document circulation, motor and sensation distal to injury site.
- Apply tourniquet proximal to wound (usually 2-4 inches).
- Tighten tourniquet incrementally to the least amount of pressure required to stop bleeding.
- Cover wound with an appropriate sterile dressing and/or bandage.
- Do not cover tourniquet (keep tourniquet visible).
- Re-assess and document circulation, motor and sensation distal to tourniquet.
- Ensure receiving facility staff are aware of tourniquet placement and time tourniquet placed.

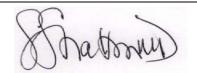
DOCUMENTATION:

- Estimated blood loss.
- Vital signs, assessment of circulation, motor, and sensation distal to injury site before and after tourniquet application.
- Time tourniquet is applied.

NOTES:

- Advanced Life Support (ALS) level response is required when a tourniquet is placed.
- Refer to treatment guideline T-15 regarding appropriate field management of an amputated body part.
- During multi-casualty incidents, consider a patient requiring a tourniquet to have a (P)perfusion problem and categorize as START category "Immediate" (Red) to facilitate treatment and minimize tourniquet time.

Approved:



TxGuide: Tourniquet: B-10 Implementation Date: 9/01/2008