



**INDICATIONS:**

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

**CONTRAINDICATIONS:**

- None.

**EQUIPMENT:**

- A tourniquet device.
- Personal protective equipment, dressings and bandages.

**PROCEDURE:**

- 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 gunshot wound sites.
- Assess and document circulation, motor and sensation distal to injury site.
- Apply tourniquet proximal to wound (usually 2-4 inches).
- Tighten tourniquet as required to stop bleeding.
- Cover wound with an appropriate sterile dressing and/or bandage.
- Do not cover tourniquet (keep tourniquet visible).
- Ensure EMS response team or receiving facility staff are aware of tourniquet placement and time tourniquet placed.

**DOCUMENTATION:**

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

**NOTES:**

- Advanced Life Support (ALS) level response is required when a tourniquet is placed.
- 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:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S. A. Watson".

Review Date: 09/08, 4/17, 2/18  
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