

Bleeding / Hemorrhage Control (Adult and Pediatric)

CFR and All Provider Levels

1. Assess site of injury and control external bleeding accordingly:
 - Uncontrolled life-threatening external bleeding from an extremity
 - Place tourniquet 2-3 inches proximal to the wound
 - If bleeding continues, place a second tourniquet proximal to the first. If the wound is distal to the knee or elbow, place the second tourniquet proximal to these joints. If the bleeding site cannot be rapidly identified, place a tourniquet “high and tight”
 - Uncontrolled life-threatening external bleeding from an anatomical junction
 - Pack the wound with gauze or hemostatic dressing, if available. Place pressure over the dressing and secure in place
 - Severe external bleeding
 - Apply direct pressure on the wound with gauze or hemostatic dressing, if available
 - Pack wound and hold pressure, using additional dressings as needed
 - If severe bleeding persists when using conventional dressings and hemostatic dressing becomes available, remove initial dressings and replace with hemostatic dressing at site of bleeding
 - Cover with a pressure bandage and secure in place
 - Severe external bleeding from a dialysis shunt or fistula
 - Apply digital pressure to the bleeding site
 - Cover with a pressure dressing and secure in place
2. ABCs and vital signs
3. Airway management and appropriate oxygen therapy
4. Assess for shock and treat as needed

CFR STOP

EMT

5. Transport

EMT STOP

Paramedic

Paramedic STOP

Medical Control Options

Key Points / Considerations

- Use of tourniquets for severe bleeding from a dialysis shunt or fistula should only be used when other means of hemorrhage control have been unsuccessful
- Infection control precautions must be followed with all patients, especially with the patient's blood
- Hemostatic dressings shall be used according to manufacturer's instructions and/or respective agency training
- Rolled gauze may be used in place of hemostatic dressing if hemostatic dressings are not available
- DO NOT remove a tourniquet that was used to control life-threatening hemorrhage
- Note the time of tourniquet application and location of tourniquet(s)
- If clinical judgment of the provider indicates that the tourniquet was placed inappropriately (e.g. minor wound) or there is a significant delay in transport, consider releasing tourniquet. Caution shall be made to ensure the ability to immediately re-apply the tourniquet and control any possible recurrent hemorrhage