



# SCR OEC6 Changes

Central Division  
South Central Region

## Patient Primary Assessment (Life-Threatening Bleed before ABCD)



This topic is one of those changes that came with the 6<sup>th</sup> edition, and the following represents excerpts from pages 148 and 149 in this edition of the OEC manual.

The new guideline is that when performing a primary patient assessment, you should **“check for and treat a life-threatening bleed before moving on to ABCD”**. The purpose of the primary patient assessment is to “form a general impression and identify and immediately treat life threats”.

The sequence of the major points of the primary assessment protocol are now:

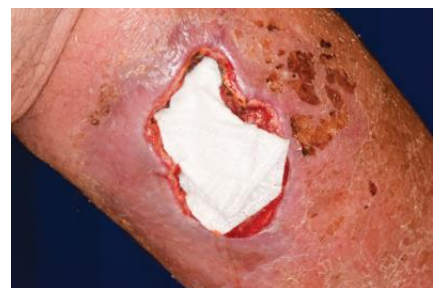
- 1) Form a general impression
- 2) Control life-threatening bleeding
- 3) Assess level of responsiveness
- 4) Rapidly assess the ABCDs (airway, breathing, circulation, and disability)
- 5) Obtain chief complaint
- 6) Update dispatch of needs

“As you approach the patient, look for and immediately control life-threatening bleeding ... [significant] blood loss can be very rapid and can quickly result in shock or even death.”

“[For] an unconscious patient, do a sweep for blood by quickly and lightly running your gloved hand from head to toe, pausing periodically to see if your gloves are bloody.”

**Controlling a major bleed:** “Initially, direct pressure with your gloved hand and soon thereafter a sterile bandage over the wound will control bleeding in most cases.”

“If unable to control bleeding from an extremity, apply a tourniquet. For deep wounds with excessive bleeding, where a tourniquet cannot be applied (like the buttock), pack the wound with gauze and then apply pressure.”



For further information, reference pages 148-156 and 409-418 of the OEC 6<sup>th</sup> edition manual.

Since its origins in 1939 as “Ski Safety and First Aid”, today’s Outdoor Emergency Care has come a long way. The OEC curricula has continually evolved as new medical information becomes available. OEC is written following the principle of *evidence-based medicine*, and thus the changes that come with each new edition. The source for the content in this bulletin is the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of Outdoor Emergency Care manual.

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