




Advisory 21-15 Management of Amputated Parts

To: All EMS Agencies and Providers
From: Jeremy T. Cushman, Regional Medical Director 
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Recently, two cases of traumatic amputation were referred to the regional trauma center.

Infrequent events as they are, they highlight the importance of managing the amputated part to optimize the potential for reimplantation. Although there is guidance in the “Amputation” Collaborative Protocol, the following is reinforced:

The first priority is controlling bleeding and providing appropriate resuscitative care, to include maintaining the patient’s body temperature. Life threatening injuries take precedence over limb loss.

Once the amputated part is located it should be:

- Wrapped in sterile gauze moistened with sterile saline
- The gauze-wrapped, amputated part should then be placed in a clean water-tight container of any type (plastic container, biohazard bag, Zip-Loc, etc)
- The bag/container with the part should then be placed in ice water or placed on top of cold packs

Importantly, an amputated part should never be placed directly on ice. As there is no blood flow, placing directly on ice can cause localized freezing injury which decreases the potential for limb salvage and successful reimplantation.

With any questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

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