



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



CLINICAL DIRECTIVE 09/2011
FROM: Medical Director
TO: Paramedics, Advanced Paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians
SUBJECT: Limb Fractures All staff should refrain from any attempt at re-aligning or re-positioning fractured limbs in an attempt to re-instate distal pulses or achieve normal anatomical alignment. Fractured limbs may be gently and carefully re-positioned to allow application of splints or other therapeutic measures. Limb fractures with associated distal vascular or neurological compromise (absent/diminished pulse, evidence of poor perfusion, paraesthesiae or motor weakness) should be considered an emergency transport (lights/sirens) and the receiving hospital must be pre-alerted.
RATIONALE: PHECC Clinical Practice Guideline 5/6.6.5 has been amended by the Medical Advisory Group of PHECC and will shortly be disseminated by PHECC. The amendment will remove the advice to attempt re-positioning of fractures on discovering a loss of distal pulses.
EFFECTIVE FROM: October 13 th 2011
EFFECTIVE TO: Publication of amended CPG by PHECC
QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ON THIS DIRECTIVE: Education and Competency Assurance Officer

Clinical Directives are formulated by the National Ambulance Service Medical Directorate, the National Ambulance Service Education and Competency Assurance Team, the Dublin Fire Brigade Medical Director and the Dublin Fire Brigade EMS Support Team. Clinical Directives apply to all relevant staff in the HSE National Ambulance Service and Dublin Fire Brigade.

Seirbhís Náisiúnta Otharchair
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