Applying Pressure to a Bleeding Wound:
Part 4 of "Stop the Bleed" Training

Illinois CTE Endorsement Area:
Health Science Technology & Human Services
Teacher and Student Editions

Original Lesson Developers: Nance Budde
ILCTE Leader, Nance Budde
May, 2020

Converted to Format by Karen Aldworth
Current Phase of Lesson: Phase 3 of 5
Overview:

Mass casualty is an unfortunate experience we have all heard about in recent years. "Stop the Bleed" is a nationwide initiative to educate the public on what to do in the case of life-threatening bleeding. Although the formation of the "Stop the Bleed" program was prompted by public events, the information included in this lesson has value for accidents occurring in homes and at accident sites. Students will learn how to apply pressure to a simple small bleeding wound and a large life-threatening bleeding arterial wound. How long should I hold the pressure? Is there a different timeline for small or large wounds? These questions will be answered during this lesson. Students will design a public service announcement (PSA) poster about this basic first aid technique. Students will display their PSA posters in your classroom or the school’s hallways to inform students of this potentially life-saving procedure.

Classes or Discipline:
- All Health Science Technology classes
- Health & Human Services classes

Career Cluster:
- Health Science
- Human Services

Illinois CTE Endorsement Area:
- Health Science
- Human Services

Grade Level(s):
- Grades 5-8 (may require some modification to assure content is appropriate)
- Secondary schools
- Postsecondary schools

Suggested Days/Minutes: 2 hours

Learning Objectives:
- Recognize why it is necessary to apply pressure to a variety of bleeding wounds.
- Demonstrate how to correctly apply pressure to a variety of bleeding wounds.
Standards Addressed:

National Health Science Standards

- 7.1.2b Standard Precautions: handwashing and gloving.
- 7.5.2 Apply principles of basic emergency response (911, wound pressure).
- 10.1.2 Obtain training &/or certification in Stop the Bleed (lesson focus is on the wound pressure piece of Stop the Bleed training).

Common Core ELA Standards:

- CC.11-12.R.I.7 Integration of knowledge & ideas: Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats, as well as, in words to address a question or solve a problem.
- CC.11-12.W.2 Text types and purposes: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

Enduring Understandings:

- Simply applying direct steady pressure over a bleeding wound or an appropriate pressure point can potentially stop dangerous life-threatening bleeding.
- Pressure needs to remain constant for a minimum of 3-5 minutes for small bleeding wounds & until EMS arrives for larger bleeding arterial wounds.

Resources and References:

1. Web MD article: Bleeding Cuts or Wounds
2. Mayo Clinic article: Severe bleeding: First aid
3. Harvard Health Publishing article Emergencies and First Aid - Direct Pressure to Stop Bleeding
4. Video: How to Take a Radial Pulse
5. Kahoot! Stop the Bleed: Applying wound pressure
6. Computer with internet connectivity
7. Individual devices capable of internet connectivity
8. Poster material (your choice of size)
9. Colored markers, pens, pencils or crayons
10. Gloves non-latex disposable (if you are going to provide disposable gloves to each student) in sizes Sm-Med-Large-XL
11. Pool noodles
12. Wound cubes or mannequins
13. You will need approximately six empty 2-liter bottles filled with red colored water for each session that you teach (ask your students to start saving them for you) The use of “RED” coloring is entirely up to you however it may stain.
Essential Employability Skills:

There are four essential employability skills

- Personal Ethic: integrity, respect, perseverance, positive attitude
- Work Ethic: dependability, professionalism
- Teamwork: critical thinking, effective and cooperative work
- Communication: active listening, clear communication

The focus of this lesson is on professionalism, critical thinking and clear communication; verbal and non-verbal.

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Suggested Differentiation Strategies:

- All groups will be diverse in student learning styles (assigned by the teacher for inclusion).
- Research reading recommendations for all levels of readers.
- Hands on practice (kinesthetic learners) can be modified to accommodate all levels of learning.
- Lesson can be modified to allow for additional time for learners at all levels.
- Creative opportunities for the visual learner.
- Gaming opportunities for visual and auditory learners.

Throughout this lesson the teacher notes and comments are in red.
1. Engage: (20 minutes)

Part 1

1. Your teacher will set up a Kahoot! game. [Click here](#) and wait for your game code.

   **Play Kahoot!** Stop the Bleed: Applying wound pressure

   Teacher will allow students to use whatever electronic device they have with internet connectivity.

   If your students completed the activity below (step #2) in the Stop the Bleed: Wound Packing lesson, it is your choice to repeat.

2. In small groups (3-4) fill a 2-liter plastic pop bottle with red water (this represents about ½ of the amount of blood in a human adult – loss of 40-50% of blood volume typically results in the victim dying from blood loss).

   It will be your choice if you want students to color the water “red.” Red coloring typically stains.

3. Your teacher will poke a hole near the bottom with a sharp object that can puncture the plastic bottle.

   Be sure the hole is “large” enough for the red or clear water liquid to seep out easily.

4. Have someone in your group “time” how long it takes each group member to stop the bleeding by applying direct pressure to the wound. Be sure to measure how much blood is still in the bottle after each group member “stops” the bleeding.

   Provide a measuring cup or graduated cylinder to measure the amount of fluid remaining in the bottle.

5. Refill the bottle until each group member has had a chance to stop the bleeding. Your group should be taking notes in order to answer questions a-e below.

   a. How much pressure did everyone have to apply?
   b. As a group, compare “your average time” for stopping the bleeding.
   c. How much blood (water) leaked out for each person?
   d. Did any of your victims survive?
   e. Do you have “blood” on your hands?
2. **Explore: (45 minutes)**

1. Watch this YouTube video on how to stop bleeding: CAUTION: there is blood / bleeding in this video. [Applying Pressure to a Bleeding Wound Medical Course](#)  
   This video is graphic and may not be suitable for all students.

2. Name 2 things that the doctor in this video did to stop the bleeding.  
   Used gauze or T-shirt and applied pressure right on the wound.

3. If you don’t have gauze, look around the classroom for something that you can use to stop bleeding.  
   T-shirt, hoodie, rags.

4. Conduct research to determine how long to hold pressure on a bleeding arterial wound.  
   Until relieved by emergency personnel.

5. Conduct research of non-life-threatening bleeding. How long should you hold pressure on the wound?  
   A minimum of 3-5 minutes.

6. If you don’t have gloves, look around the classroom for something that you can use to protect yourself.  
   Lunch baggies, plastic garbage bags etc.

7. In your same small groups, study these 4 pictures and discuss with your group what is happening in each picture. Write down your descriptions for each.  
   Gauze on wound, rag/t-shirt or sock on wound, pressure applied to wound, arm (extremity elevated) and snugly wrapped bandage. Are they all wearing gloves?
8. Get with a partner and practice the different techniques on each other. Be sure to change places!

Part II

1. Research wound pressure information in greater depth and answer the following questions:
   
a. What should you do if the wound keeps bleeding?
      Do not remove the gauze or shirt, apply another cloth directly over the 1st cloth and relocate the fingers to apply the pressure more directly if bleeding continues.
   
b. If you have visible blood on your hands, what are the next 3 steps?
      Handwashing for a minimum of 20-30 seconds, complete a blood exposure report and contact your MD.

2. Your teacher will now demonstrate how to apply pressure to a small wound. Be prepared to answer questions after his/her demonstration. Did you see any difference in the teacher's technique when compared to yours?
   Use 2-3 fingers to apply direct pressure to a "small wound".

3. With your partner, practice wound pressure on a small wound again using the teacher's technique this time.

4. Were there any major differences in your earlier technique and your teacher's technique?

Part III

1. In small groups discuss how wound pressure to a large severely bleeding arterial wound is different from a small wound. You may need to conduct additional research. Be prepared to share your findings with the class regarding questions 2, 3 & 4 below. The following articles may be helpful in your research.
   Web MD article: [Bleeding Cuts or Wounds](#)
   Mayo Clinic article: [Severe bleeding: First aid](#)
2. What, if anything, is done differently for a large bleeding arterial wound? Potentially will need additional material placed to the bleeding site and apply deeper pressure and locate the pressure point.

3. What is a pressure point and how do you think it is related to wound bleeding? A point where an artery can be pressed against a bone to inhibit bleeding.

4. Your teacher will show you how to find the radial, brachial, femoral and popliteal pressure points.

5. How do you know if you have found a pressure point? Students will be able to feel a pulse or the beating of the heart.

6. With a partner, practice finding the radial and brachial pulses (pressure points). These short video links will show students how to find the radial and brachial pulse. 
   - [How to Take a Radial Pulse](#)
   - [Finding the Brachial Artery](#)

7. If pressure on the wound does not stop the bleeding, what would be your next step? While applying pressure directly on the wound with one hand, use the other hand to apply pressure directly on an arterial pressure point above the wound (closer to the heart).

8. Can you stop applying pressure and look underneath the cloth to be sure that you stopped the bleeding? No, easier to judge your effectiveness by observing the amount of blood still flowing.

9. How long should you hold the pressure on the wound? For larger bleeding arterial wounds, it is recommended that pressure be held until rescue personnel have been relieved by emergency medical personnel.

10. Why should you elevate the extremity (arm or leg) higher than the heart? The basic concept for raising the arm or leg above heart level is it may aid in decreasing blood flow to the wound.

11. Using mannequins & wound cubes (if available) or pool noodles, demonstrate how you would apply pressure to a large bleeding arterial wound. If using pool noodles, be sure to indicate arm or leg and possible pressure points for each. Using a Sharpie, make different size wounds on the pool noodles (make some straight, round, jagged etc.)
12. What if anything, did you do differently when you practiced pressure on a small wound?

13. Your teacher will now demonstrate how to apply pressure to a large arterial bleeding wound. Take notes on anything she/he did differently from your practice.

14. Using your mannequins, wound cubes or pool noodles, try it again with your partner being sure to use your teacher’s demonstrated technique this time.

3. Explain: (10 minutes)

1. How long should you apply pressure to stop the bleeding of a small & large wound?
   For small wounds, 3-5 minutes of constant direct pressure. For larger wounds, applying direct pressure and pressure point pressure if needed, should be held until relieved by emergency personnel.

2. List 2 different materials that can be used to help stop the bleeding.
   Rag, T-shirt, hoodie, sock (any handy cloth item).

3. If the blood soaks through the cloth you are using, what is your next step?
   Apply a 2nd cloth directly over the 1st cloth – DO NOT REMOVE the FIRST CLOTH or LOOK UNDERNEATH. Consider holding direct pressure to the wound and apply direct pressure to a pressure point ABOVE the wound.

4. Where is the “pressure” point to stop bleeding from a wound on the forearm?
   Always apply pressure directly, but if bleeding does not stop, apply pressure above the wound (closer to the heart) so in this case it would be the brachial pressure point.

4. Elaborate/Extend (45 Minutes

Part 1

1. Watch this short YouTube Video, Live Rescue: Drive-By Victim Shot in Leg, which shows a live rescue of a shooting victim. Caution, there are scenes where you will see blood. The rescuer used rolled gauze. Take Notes!
   The video Live Rescue: Drive-By Victim Shot in Leg is graphic and may not be appropriate for all students.

2. What sticks out in your mind?

3. How did it affect you to see a bleeding victim with blood everywhere?
4. What could you use if you didn't have rolled gauze?  
   Rags, t-shirts, socks, etc.

5. Was the paramedic talking to the victim? If yes, why? If no, why not?  
   Yes, to attempt to calm and reassure the victim that they are there to help. To gain her cooperation so that the wound did not worsen.

6. Did the wound pressure cause the victim any pain?  
   Yes, she was complaining of pain.

7. Were you affected by the sight of blood?

Part II

1. In a group of 4, design a poster for your classroom or school hallway with appropriate pictures and the steps for controlling bleeding with the application of direct pressure.  
   Be sure each group has diverse learners.
   a) Be creative. 
   b) Be colorful.

2. The process illustrated must be accurate, factual, and presented in a logical order. Also, be sure to indicate if there is any difference between stopping a small wound that is bleeding as compared to stopping a large life-threatening wound involving arterial bleeding.  
   Hopefully students will hit most of these steps in a logical sequence demonstrating to you their knowledge from the lesson.
   a) Call 911
   b) Locate the area that is bleeding
   c) Find anything that you can use to protect yourself if no gloves are available
   d) Using any cloth material, apply on top of the wound
   e) Apply direct pressure on the wound
   f) Elevate the arm or leg
   g) If bleeding continues, apply a 2nd cloth over the 1st cloth
   h) Apply direct pressure to a “pressure point” directly above the wound site
   i) For small wounds, apply pressure for 3-5 minutes
   j) For larger wounds, hold direct pressure until relieved by emergency personnel
   k) Handwashing after the blood exposure
   l) Blood incident report after exposure

3. Present your poster to the entire class before placing on display.  
   Display posters around the classroom for everyone to see.
5. Evaluate

Your teacher may use the following criteria to evaluate your comprehension of the information presented in the lesson.

1. Individual demonstration of applying pressure to small wounds.
2. Individual demonstration of applying pressure to large / arterial wounds.
3. Individual demonstration on how to find the pressure point for a forearm wound.
   Brachial pressure point
4. Post-lesson Kahoot! Stop the Bleed: Applying wound pressure with improvement in the number of questions answered correctly.
5. Evaluation of group poster
   Rubric for group poster
   5-6 points - student is knowledgeable of the essentials of this lesson
   4 points - student is has not grasped the important parts of this lesson

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Notes:

All ILCTE lessons are vetted by Curriculum Leader, Dr. Brad Christensen.

To see a review of this lesson by previous users, click here.

We invite users of this lesson to click here to leave follow up information and rating.

We would like to publish pictures / videos of your students using this lesson. Please send to Rod McQuality at: rdmcquality@ilstu.edu. By sending pictures, you have met all the picture / video release for your school.

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Applying Pressure to a Bleeding Wound:

Part 4 of "Stop the Bleed" Hand Protection

Student Edition
Overview:

Mass casualty is an unfortunate experience we have all heard about in recent years. "Stop the Bleed" is a nationwide initiative to educate the public on what to do in the case of life-threatening bleeding. Although the formation of the "Stop the Bleed" program was prompted by public events, the information included in this lesson has value for accidents occurring in homes and at accident sites. Students will learn how to apply pressure to a simple small bleeding wound and a large life-threatening bleeding arterial wound. How long should I hold the pressure? Is there a different timeline for small or large wounds? These questions will be answered during this lesson. Students will design a public service announcement (PSA) poster about this basic first aid technique. Students will display their PSA posters in your classroom or the school's hallways to inform students of this potentially life-saving procedure.

Learning Objectives:

- Recognize why it is necessary to apply pressure to a variety of bleeding wounds.
- Demonstrate how to correctly apply pressure to a variety of bleeding wounds.

Enduring Understandings:

- Simply applying direct steady pressure over a bleeding wound or an appropriate pressure point can potentially stop dangerous life-threatening bleeding.
- Pressure needs to remain constant for a minimum of 3-5 minutes for small bleeding wounds & until EMS arrives for larger bleeding arterial wounds.

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8. Poster material (your choice of size)
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10. Gloves non-latex disposable (if you are going to provide disposable gloves to each student) in sizes Sm-Med-Large-XL
11. Pool noodles
12. Wound cubes or mannequins
13. You will need approximately six empty 2-liter bottles filled with red colored water for each session that you teach (ask your students to start saving them for you) The use of “RED” coloring is entirely up to you however it may stain.
**Essential Employability Skills:**

There are four *essential employability skills*
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   d. Did any of your victims survive?
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2. **Explore:**

1. Watch this YouTube video on how to stop bleeding: CAUTION: there is blood / bleeding in this video. Applying Pressure to a Bleeding Wound Medical Course

2. Name 2 things that the doctor in this video did to stop the bleeding.

3. If you don’t have gauze, look around the classroom for something that you can use to stop bleeding.

4. Conduct research to determine how long to hold pressure on a bleeding arterial wound.

5. Conduct research of non-life-threatening bleeding. How long should you hold pressure on the wound?

6. If you don’t have gloves, look around the classroom for something that you can use to protect yourself.

7. In your same small groups, study these 4 pictures and discuss with your group what is happening in each picture. Write down your descriptions for each.
8. Get with a partner and practice the different techniques on each other. Be sure to change places!

Part II

1. Research wound pressure information in greater depth and answer the following questions:
   
   a. What should you do if the wound keeps bleeding?
   
   b. If you have visible blood on your hands, what are the next 3 steps?

2. Your teacher will now demonstrate how to apply pressure to a small wound. Be prepared to answer questions after his/her demonstration. Did you see any difference in the teacher’s technique when compared to yours?

3. With your partner, practice wound pressure on a small wound again using the teacher’s technique this time.
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1. In small groups discuss how wound pressure to a large severely bleeding arterial wound is different from a small wound. You may need to conduct additional research. Be prepared to share your findings with the class regarding questions 2, 3 & 4 below. The following articles may be helpful in your research. Web MD article: **Bleeding Cuts or Wounds**
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4. Elaborate/Extend (45 Minutes)

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   a) Be creative.
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2. The process illustrated must be accurate, factual, and presented in a logical order. Also, be sure to indicate if there is any difference between stopping a small wound that is bleeding as compared to stopping a large life-threatening wound involving arterial bleeding.

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5. Evaluation of group poster

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