



COMBAT LIFESAVER
TACTICAL COMBAT CASUALTY CARE

MODULE 11:
HYPOTHERMIA
PREVENTION
SKILL INSTRUCTIONS

30 JUN 2020



**Committee on
Tactical Combat
Casualty Care
(CoTCCC)**

HYPOTHERMIA TREATMENT INSTRUCTION

TASK:	Treat or prevent hypothermia
CONDITION:	Given a scenario where the casualty and responder are in combat gear and the trauma casualty has signs and symptoms of hypothermia or is at risk of hypothermia in a Tactical Field Care setting
STANDARD:	Treat or prevent hypothermia following all steps and meeting performance measures without causing further injury to the casualty
EQUIPMENT:	Active heating devices (commercially available) and/or passive warming materials (e.g., poncho, wool blanket, Mylar, dry wrap, space blanket)

PERFORMANCE MEASURES: step-by-step instructions

- 01** Minimize the casualty's exposure to the elements.
- 02** Ensure bleeding is controlled and assess for hemorrhagic shock.
NOTE: Signs of hemorrhagic shock can include severe blood loss, altered mental status in the absence of a head injury, weak or absent radial (wrist) pulse, rapid or shallow breathing, pale skin or blotchy.
blue as shock progresses, sweaty but cool skin, confusion, restlessness or nervousness, nausea, and/or vomiting.
- 03** Open the active heating device and/or blanket package and remove the device or blanket.
- 04** Expose any active heating device to air (per manufacturers' guidance).
NOTE: If using a self-heating shell-type liner, remove from the packaging.
- 05** Remove any wet clothes and replace them with dry clothes/other dry materials, if possible.
- 06** If applicable, remove the warming shell, open completely, and place the casualty centered on the shell.
- 07** Apply the active heating device to the casualty.
CAUTION: Do not place the active warming device directly on the skin.
- 08** If an active heating device is not available, place passive warming materials (blanket, etc.) under and on the casualty.
CAUTION: Passive hypothermia prevention does not reverse the hypothermic process.
- 09** Wrap the entire blanket-like shell (or passive warming materials) completely around the casualty, including the head.
NOTE: Do not cover up the casualty's face.
- 10** Secure the shell/blanket with tape.
- 11** Monitor the casualty closely for life-threatening conditions.
- 12** Document all findings and treatments on a DD Form 1380 TCCC Casualty Card and attach it to the casualty.

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