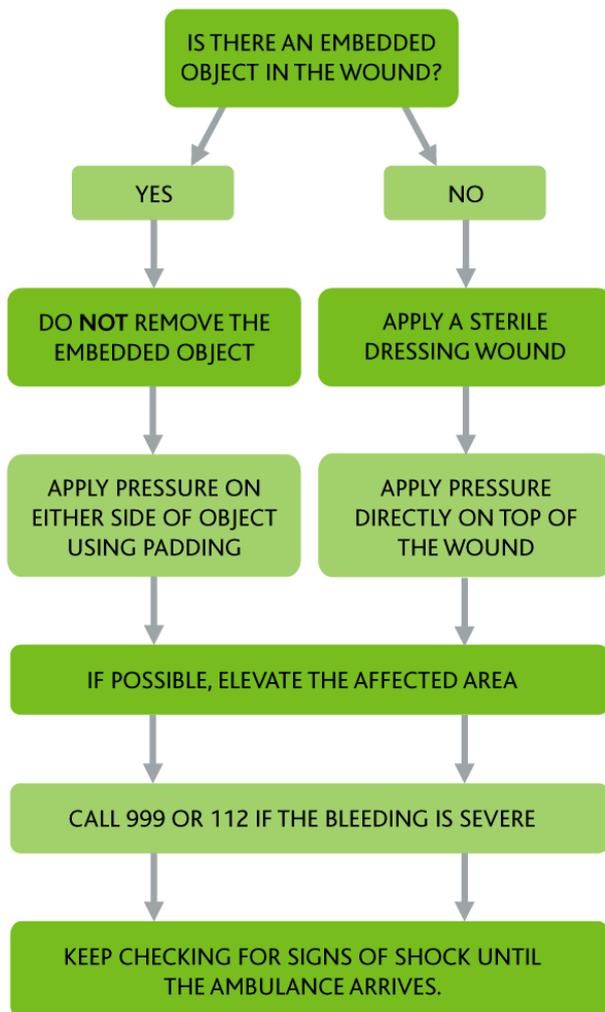


First Aid for Children

SEVERE BLEEDING

If you are administering first aid to a casualty who is bleeding heavily, the main aim is to prevent further blood loss and minimise the effects of shock. In this case, shock does not mean emotional shock, but the life-threatening condition often caused by loss of blood.

Although First Aid must be given as soon as possible, you should always wear a pair of disposable gloves when you are dealing with a casualty that is bleeding, as it will protect both of you from the spread of any infections. Keep reassuring the child to keep them calm.



IF THERE IS NO OBJECT EMBEDDED INTO THE WOUND:

1. If possible, use a clean pad or dressing to apply pressure to the wound. Maintain the pressure until the bleeding stops.
2. If bleeding continues through the pad, apply another pad over the top and bandage it in place. Don't remove the original pad or dressing, but continue to check that the bleeding has stopped.
3. If possible, elevate the injured area above the heart, while still applying pressure.
4. If the bleeding is severe, call 999 or 112 and ask for an ambulance as soon as possible.
5. Keep checking the casualty for signs of shock.

IF THERE IS AN OBJECT EMBEDDED INTO THE WOUND:

1. Do NOT remove any embedded objects; they can often be acting as a plug for the bleeding, and removing them will make it much worse.
2. Instead of applying pressure directly to the wound with a clean pad or dressing, apply pressure to either side of the embedded object instead.
3. If possible, elevate the injured area above the heart, while still applying pressure.
4. If the bleeding is severe, call 999 or 112 and ask for an ambulance as soon as possible.
5. Keep checking the casualty for signs of shock.

If a body part, (such as a finger), has been severed, place it in a plastic bag or wrap it in Clingfilm and make sure it goes with the casualty to hospital.