



Dear Region Chiefs, State COT Chairs and Trauma Leaders:

In the early 1980s, the American College of Surgeons and specifically the Committee on Trauma introduced the ATLS and endorsed the PHTLS for trauma care. They took a new idea and over the next 10 years changed the concept of early care of the trauma patient care. The Advance Trauma Life Support and the Prehospital Trauma Life Support became the standard of care throughout the world. These two concepts and training programs have literally saved millions of lives since that time. We have an opportunity to take the components of the Hartford Consensus and improve patient care in a similar fashion.

There are two components of the Hartford Consensus. The first is to address hemorrhage control, as did the American Heart Association to make the civilian community aware with Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). This can change hemorrhage control in the United States.

The second is to develop awareness within EMS and Law Enforcement, for the negative effect of delaying medical care in disaster situations or in situations of multiple injuries. You, as a Regional COT chair, can actively assist the interaction of EMS and Law Enforcement in your state to provide awareness of the importance of care during the evolution of the event. Working with both law enforcements and EMS provide plans for EMS access to the injured patents in Active Shooter and other disaster situation to control hemorrhage and other life threatening problems on the scene.

These two have been combined with the acronym of THREAT to demonstrate how both can be used in a disaster situation and a spin-off of training of all civilians on damage control.

Threat suppression  
Hemorrhage control  
Rapid Extrication to safety  
Assessment by medical providers  
Transport to definitive care

The enclosure, in this letter, is an introduction to BCon. The Prehospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS)/National Association of EMTs, has developed a 2 -1/2 hour training program as a mechanism of teaching civilian hemorrhage control. This hemorrhage control program was developed for training by the various 10,000 instructor across the world for damage control to law enforcement. It is called BCon (Bleeding Control). It has been given to the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma free of cost for your use in training in your state. You can choose your own instructors. The request is that each instructor be familiar with the instructor principles and that each instructor shall, at a minimum, take a BCon course before trying to teach it. It is obviously much better to have for the instructors, to have some educational skills and to have taken a training program in education, either PHTLS or the American College of Surgeons, ACLS, but that is not a requirement.

These are available to you at ( <http://www.naemt.org/education/B-Con/b-con-course-materials>). Certificates can be obtained through the course site materials. Many course sites have found that it is an extra incentive to include a tourniquet in the cost of the course.

Norman McSwain, MD FACS

*Professor of Surgery, Tulane University  
Medical Director, Prehospital Trauma Life Support*

Leonard J. Weireter Jr. MD FACS

*Vice-Chair  
ACS Committee on Trauma*

