

North Central Region

Position Statement on the Initial Management of Open Fractures

Both Level II Trauma Centers in the NCRTAC region agree that any open or suspected open fractures should receive early antibiotic administration (when possible) prior to transfer to a higher-level trauma center to improve patient outcomes. Administration of antibiotics should not delay transfer.

- Antibiotic selection (based on current ATLS guidelines)
 - 1st generation cephalosporin unless heavily contaminated, then piperacillin/tazobactam.
 - If cephalosporin or PCN allergies, then clindamycin can be substituted.
- Tetanus needed if more than 5 years or history is unknown.
- Apply saline soaked gauze dressings without an additive (i.e. no betadine).

Endorsed by:

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Level II Adult Trauma Center



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Approved by the NCRTAC General Membership September 14, 2023