

## A. Introduction

Traction splints are indicated for patients with a closed fracture to the femur. Traction splints are designed to apply a gentle, steady pull to the leg (traction). This steady traction helps with pain by realigning the fractured bone fragments, decreases the risk of further injury to soft tissue and blood vessels from sharp bone ends, and helps control muscle spasms that can make the fracture more painful and difficult to manage.

### Contraindications:

- Hip or Pelvic fractures
- Supracondylar fracture
- Knee, ankle, or foot fractures
- Open femur fracture

## B. Procedure

### EMR/BLS

1. Always assess distal pulses, sensation, and motor function before and after traction splint application.
2. Prepare traction splint for application
  - a) Undo all straps, including ankle and ischial strap.
  - b) Place the splint on the un-injured side to measure the appropriate length for splint application.
3. Apply Traction splint
  - a) Expose injured leg
  - b) Attach ischial strap and ankle hitch
  - c) Apply gentle and firm manual traction until the injured leg experiences pain relief and/or the injured leg aligns with the non-injured leg.
4. Working from top to bottom, secure the remaining straps to stabilize the injured leg.
5. Once the splint is in place, re-evaluate pulse, motor, sensory (PMS)