Standard of Care
Immobilized Burn Patient

Objectives:
1. To assess for limited range of motion.
2. To prevent contractures of affected joints.
3. To promote circulation.

Process Standards:
1. Rehabilitative Services (Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy) will be consulted on all new admissions to the Burn Center.
2. No pillows will be used under the head for patients with neck and ear burns.
3. Patients with burns to the hands and fingers will have splints fabricated by Rehabilitative Services to prevent “clawing” positioning.
4. Splint application schedules and ROM exercises will be provided by Rehabilitative Services. Special attention should be taken for signs and symptoms of foot drop.
5. Capillary circulation of extremities will be checked every two hours while splints are in place.
6. Extremity protectors (gel pads, elbow or heel pads) will be utilized to prevent pressure areas from occurring over bony prominences.

Outcome Standards:
1. The patient will be able to move extremities with minimal restriction in ROM.
2. The patient will have no contractures.
3. The patient will have no pressure areas over bony prominences.

Reference: