

APPLICATION OF DRY DRESSING

PURPOSE

To aid in the management of a wound with minimal drainage.

To protect the wound from injury, prevent introduction of bacteria, reduce discomfort, and assist with healing.

APPLIES TO

- Registered Nurses
- Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses
- Therapists
- Other (Identify): _____

EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES

- One pair of disposable gloves and one pair of sterile gloves or two pair of disposable gloves.*
- Dressing set including scissors and forceps.*
- Sterile gauze dressings.
- Prescribed solution - sterile normal saline or sterile water per physician's orders.
- Tape, ties, or bandage.
- Waterproof bag.
- Measurement device.
- Sterile drape (optional with sterile dressing change).
- Antiseptic ointment (if ordered).
- ABD pads (if ordered).*
- Waste disposal supplies.

**Note: Supplies to be sterile if procedure is ordered to be performed using aseptic technique.*

PROCEDURE

1. Wash hands. Refer to the Hand Washing procedure.
2. Position the client to provide access to the wound.
3. Place waterproof bag next to work area and within reach.
4. Don clean gloves.
5. Remove old dressing. Pull tape toward the dressing.
6. Observe appearance and amount of drainage.
7. Hold soiled dressing in hand and remove glove to wrap inside out around dressing. Repeat with second glove and discard in disposable bag. *If amount of dressing is too great, place dressing directly into waterproof bag, remove gloves, and dispose of in bag.*
8. For sterile procedure, open sterile dressing set.
9. Open supplies.
10. Don second pair of gloves.
11. Assess wound size, characteristics, and drainage. *Use same measurement method throughout service, i.e., inches or centimeters.*
12. Clean the wound with prescribed solution and gauze pad. *Clean from least-contaminated to most-contaminated areas. Use new pad for each stroke.*
13. Apply ointment as ordered.
14. Apply dry sterile dressings:
 - a. Fluff the bottom gauze pad. *This promotes proper absorption of drainage.*
 - b. Apply top gauze pad.
 - c. If wound has a drain, use a precut gauze pad to fit around drain.
 - d. If needed, apply ABD pad to top of dressing.
15. Secure dressing with tape, ties, or binder.
16. Remove gloves and dispose of waste according to the Agency Waste Disposal Policy.
17. Wash hands. Refer to Hand Washing procedure.

DOCUMENTATION GUIDELINES

1. Document in the clinical record:
 - a. Appearance, odor, and size of wound.
 - b. Amount and characteristics of drainage.
 - c. The client's tolerance of the procedure.
 - d. Dressing procedure and time of dressing change.

RELATED PROCEDURES

None.