

APPLICATION OF HYDROCOLLOID DRESSING

PURPOSE

To manage wounds stages 1, 2, and 3.

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.*
- Sterile normal saline or prescribed wound cleanser.
- Sterile gauze pads.
- Proper size hydrocolloid dressing.
- Waterproof bag.
- Dressing set (optional).*
- Water-soluble lubricant (optional).

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

PROCEDURE

1. Wash hands. Refer to Hand Washing procedure.
2. Position the client to provide access to wound.
3. Place waterproof bag next to work area and within reach.
4. Don clean gloves.
5. Remove old dressing. Gently free dressing and pull back slowly across dressing in the direction of hair growth. May use water-soluble lubricant for easier removal.
6. Observe appearance of wound and any drainage.
7. Hold soiled dressing in hand and remove glove to wrap inside out around dressing. Repeat with second glove. *If amount of dressing is too great, place dressing directly into waterproof bag, then remove gloves and dispose of in bag.*
8. Prepare sterile dressings. Pour sterile normal saline or prescribed solution over one to two gauze pads.
9. Don clean gloves (sterile gloves if procedure is ordered to be aseptic).
10. Assess wound size, characteristics, and drainage. *Use same measurement method throughout service, i.e., inches or centimeters.*
11. Gently cleanse area with gauze pads or spray with cleanser. Swab exudate away from wound.
12. Thoroughly dry area around wound with gauze pads.
13. Apply hydrocolloid dressing.
 - a. Hold slight pressure with palm of hand covering dressing for one to two minutes to assist in adhering.
 - b. For deeper wounds, apply hydrocolloid granules or paste before applying wafer dressing as prescribed by the physician. *Do not stretch or wrinkle dressing.*
14. Remove gloves and dispose of waste according to the Agency Waste Disposal Policy.
15. Wash hands. Refer to Hand Washing procedure.
16. Change dressing minimally every seven days.

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.