

# APPLICATION OF HYDROGEL DRESSING

## PURPOSE

To facilitate wound debridement by rehydration.

## 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.
- Hydrogel dressing.
- Waterproof bag.
- Dressing set (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. Lift hydrogel dressing off wound.
  6. Dispose of soiled dressings in waterproof bag.
  7. Remove soiled gloves by wrapping them inside out.
  8. Prepare sterile dressings. Pour sterile normal saline or prescribed solution over one to two gauze pads.
  9. Open new hydrogel dressing or hydrogel container.
  10. Don clean gloves (sterile gloves if procedure is ordered to be aseptic).
  11. Assess wound size, characteristics, and drainage. *Use same measurement method throughout service, i.e., inches or centimeters.*
  12. Gently cleanse area with gauze pads or spray with cleanser. Swab exudate away from wound.
  13. Apply new hydrogel dressing or hydrogel. The gel should be approximately 1/4 to 1/2-inch thick across the wound.
  14. Cover with secondary dressing:
    - a. Gauze.
    - b. Hydrocolloid.
- Note: Refer to Application of Wet-to-Dry Dressing or Application of Hydrocolloid dressing procedures.*
15. Remove gloves and dispose of waste according to the Agency Waste Disposal Policy.
  16. Wash hands. Refer to Hand Washing procedure.

**PROCEDURE**

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**

Application of Wet-to-Dry Dressing, Application of Hydrocolloid Dressing