

# APPLICATION OF TRANSPARENT DRESSING

## PURPOSE

To manage superficial wounds.

## 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 transparent dressing.
- Waterproof bag.
- Dressing set (optional).\*
- Skin preparation materials (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 the 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.
6. Observe appearance of wound and any drainage.
7. Hold soiled dressing in hand and remove glove to wrap inside out around dressing.
8. Don clean gloves (sterile gloves if procedure is ordered to be aseptic).
9. Gently cleanse area with gauze pads or spray with cleanser. Swab exudate away from wound.
10. Thoroughly dry skin around wound with gauze pads.
11. If the client perspires a great deal or the dressings tend to come off, use skin preparation materials around periphery of wound and allow drying thoroughly.
12. Apply transparent dressing. *Do not stretch or wrinkle dressing.*
13. Remove gloves and dispose of waste according to the Agency Waste Disposal Policy.
14. Wash hands. Refer to Hand Washing procedure.
15. Change dressing every seven days or as needed.

**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.