

PROCEDURE

ORIGINAL DATE: 08/93

Revised Date: 09/02

SUBJECT: STERILE DRESSING CHANGE

PURPOSE: To cleanse the wound, promote wound healing, and prevent infection for a patient with a wound that the physician has ordered sterile technique for dressing changes.

CONSIDERATIONS

Wound is free of infection and shows evidence of healing. Pain is minimized during the procedure and anxiety is reduced.

Necessary Equipment	
Sterilized instruments, if needed (scissors)	Prescribed cleansers, debriders, and topical antimicrobials, antibiotics
Trash bag (double bag)	Sterile dressings
Gloves	Sterile Q-tips
Tape/bandage	Sterile gloves
Sterile barrier	

<i>Procedure</i>
1. Explain procedure to patient
2. Assist patient to obtain a comfortable position, allowing easy access to the wound.
3. Wash hands, put on examining gloves
4. Loosen and remove old dressing and discard
5. Remove gloves and wash hands
6. Prepare <u>sterile field</u> , touching exterior wrapping only. Drop <u>all necessary dressings</u> onto sterile field and prepare prescribed treatments. Don sterile gloves.
7. Cleanse wound as prescribed by physician.
8. Apply ordered dressing.
9. Secure dressing.
10. Wash hands.
11. Document wound status and notify physician of changes.

<i>Rationale</i>
To reduce anxiety and obtain consent.
To prevent cross-contamination
To maintain a sterile field
To remove exudate and devitalized tissue.
Note wound color, size, depth weekly. Presence of drainage and amount, color consistency and odor, new onset or exacerbation of pain, quality of periwound tissue, and, if patient is diabetic, unexplained change in blood sugar levels.