

## G-110 Application of Wet-to-Dry Dressing

### Purpose

To mechanically debride a wound.

### Applies To

Registered Nurses

Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses

Other (*Identify*): \_\_\_\_\_

### Equipment/Supplies

Disposable gloves and sterile gloves.\*

Dressing set including scissors and forceps.\*

Sterile gauze pads.

ABD pads, if ordered.\*

Prescribed solution - sterile normal saline or sterile water.

Waterproof pad.

Waterproof bag.

Tape, ties, or bandage.

Sterile drape (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. Pull tape toward the dressing. Gently free dressing. May use small amount of sterile normal saline or sterile water to assist in loosening 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. *If amount of dressing is too great, place dressing directly into waterproof bag, then remove gloves and dispose of in bag.*

8. Wash hands.
9. Prepare sterile dressings. Pour prescribed solution over one to two gauze pads to moisten.
10. Don clean gloves (sterile gloves if procedure is ordered to be aseptic).
11. Assess wound size, characteristics, and drainage. Assess drains if any present. *Use same measurement method throughout service, i.e., inches or centimeters.*
12. Cleanse wound with prescribed solution and gauze pad. *Clean from least-contaminated to-most contaminated areas. Use new pad for each stroke.*
13. Fluff moistened gauze pad(s) and apply over top of wound. For deep wounds, use forceps to ensure all surfaces are in contact with moistened gauze.
14. Apply sterile gauze pads over wet gauze. *Can fluff to ensure wound is loosely packed.*
15. Cover with ABD pad(s).
16. Secure dressing with tape, ties, or binder.
17. Remove gloves and dispose of waste per Agency Waste Disposal Policy.
18. 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.

**Policy History**

Approval Date	01/17/10
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