

SOP: Wound Care and Dressing Change Procedures

This SOP provides detailed guidelines for **wound care and dressing change procedures**, encompassing proper wound assessment, cleaning and disinfection techniques, selection and application of appropriate dressings, infection prevention measures, pain management during dressing changes, monitoring for signs of healing or complications, documentation of wound progress, and safe disposal of used materials. The aim is to promote effective wound healing, minimize infection risks, and ensure patient comfort and safety throughout the care process.

1. Purpose

To outline standardized procedures for wound care and dressing changes to facilitate effective healing, prevent infection, and ensure patient safety and comfort.

2. Scope

This SOP applies to all healthcare professionals involved in wound care and dressing changes within the facility.

3. Responsibilities

- Healthcare professionals must follow this SOP and provide appropriate patient education.
- Supervisors shall ensure staff competency and compliance with these procedures.

4. Required Equipment and Materials

- Personal protective equipment (gloves, gown, mask if necessary)
- Sterile and non-sterile dressings
- Wound cleaning solutions (e.g., saline, antiseptic)
- Wound assessment chart/documentation tools
- Disposal containers (biohazard bags, sharps containers)
- Pain management medications (as prescribed if needed)
- Adhesive tapes, scissors, forceps (sterile)

5. Procedure

1. Preparation

- Verify patient identity and review care plan.
- Gather all necessary equipment and wash hands.
- Provide privacy and explain the procedure to the patient.

2. Wound Assessment

- Assess wound size, depth, appearance, exudate, odor, and surrounding skin.
- Check for signs of infection (redness, swelling, heat, pain, purulent discharge).

3. Dress Removal

- Apply gloves and remove old dressing carefully, noting the condition of dressing and exudate.
- Dispose of used materials in designated containers.

4. Wound Cleaning and Disinfection

- Cleanse wound gently from the center outward using appropriate solutions.
- Pat dry with sterile gauze. Avoid contamination.

5. Application of New Dressing

- Choose dressing type based on wound assessment.
- Apply dressing securely, ensuring comfort and coverage.

6. Pain Management

- Assess and manage pain as needed, according to patient's care plan.

7. Post-Procedure Care

- Dispose of used materials safely.
- Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene.
- Document wound status, care provided, and any observations or changes.

6. Monitoring and Documentation

- Monitor the wound for signs of healing or complications at each dressing change.
- Document wound characteristics, type of dressing applied, and patient's response in the medical record.
- Report any concerns or changes to the supervising clinician promptly.

Parameter	To be Documented
Wound Size & Appearance	Length, width, depth, exudate, granulation, necrosis
Periwound Skin	Redness, edema, maceration
Pain Level	Assessment before, during, after dressing change
Type of Dressing	Type and amount applied
Complications Observed	Infection, allergic reaction, bleeding, etc.

7. Infection Prevention

- Use aseptic technique throughout the procedure.
- Change gloves if contaminated during the process.
- Dispose of sharps and biohazard waste according to facility policies.

8. References

- Facility Infection Control Policy
- CDC Guidelines for Wound Care
- Product-specific instructions for dressings

9. Review and Revision

This SOP will be reviewed annually or as needed to incorporate best clinical practices.