

PROCEDURE

ORIGINAL DATE: 09/03

REVISION DATE:

05/13

SUBJECT: FILM DRESSINGS

PURPOSE: To provide a moist wound environment
To protect fragile skin from moisture and friction
To facilitate autolytic debridement
To protect the wound surface and provide a barrier to leakage and bacterial contamination

Considerations

Film dressings are transparent, semipermeable, adherent dressings designed for use on IV sites, intact skin, sutured wounds or mildly exudating superficial or partial thickness wounds. These dressings are available in different sizes. Film dressings do not absorb exudate, rather, moisture vapor will permeate through the dressing. Film dressings should not be used on full-thickness wounds involving muscle, tendon, bone or on third degree burns.

Supplies/Equipment

Clean gloves, wound cleansing or irrigation supplies; film dressing which is large enough to cover the wound, exceeding the wound margins by at least 1-2 cm.; clean scissors to be used if the dressing needs to be cut to fit a particular area; plastic bags for disposal of old dressing; clean towel to dry the skin after cleansing.

Procedure

1. Follow clean technique procedure for assessment and treatment of the patient including dressing change.
2. Carefully remove and discard old dressing. After hand washing, don appropriate personal protective equipment.
3. Cleanse or irrigate the wound according to the physician's order.
4. Dry the surrounding skin and assess the wound.
5. Remove the backing from the adhesive layer of the dressing and apply without stretching the dressing or the skin. Smooth the dressing in place. The dressing should overlap dry skin by at least one centimeter.
6. Discard all disposable materials in the plastic bag; assure that it is discarded in a second plastic bag according to HHVNA policy.
7. Clean reusable materials.
8. Document findings and update plan of care as necessary.
9. Follow-up: Change dressing at least once a week or when leakage of exudate occurs, according to physicians order.

Reference(s):

1. Mölnlyche Health Care Reference Manual, Mölnlyche Health Care, Inc., Newton, PA, Feb, 2003
2. Mölnlyche Health Care Wound Dressing Selection Guide, Mölnlyche Health Care, Inc., Newton, PA, 2002