



CHS12 Undertake treatments and dressings related to the care of lesions and wounds

OVERVIEW

This standard covers undertaking treatments and dressings related to the care of individuals lesions and wounds. It is applicable in a variety of care settings including hospitals, care homes, the individuals own home or other community settings such as GP surgeries.

This standard involves removing and disposing of soiled dressings and wound coverings, cleaning lesions and wounds and applying fresh treatments/dressings.

All of these activities must be undertaken using an aseptic technique and following local guidelines and procedures.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

Version No 1

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

You will need to know and understand:

1. the current European and National legislation, national guidelines, organisational policies and protocols in accordance with Clinical/Corporate Governance which affect your work practice in relation to undertaking treatments and dressings related to the care of lesions and wounds
2. your responsibilities and accountability in relation to the current European and National legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols and Clinical/Corporate Governance
3. the duty to report any acts or omissions in care that could be detrimental to yourself, other individuals or your employer
4. the importance of working within your own sphere of competence and seeking advice when faced with situations outside your sphere of competence
5. what valid consent means and why it must be obtained and confirmed prior to actions being taken
6. the importance of applying standard precautions to undertaking treatment and

- dressings related to the care of lesions and wounds and the potential consequences of poor practice
7. why individuals should be supported and told about the nature of the lesions/wound treatment or dressing
 8. the concerns and worries which individuals or client groups
 9. the adverse reactions which may occur during and following procedures and how to identify and deal with these
 10. the role of the tissue viability/wound care specialist practitioner and how they can be contacted
 11. the anatomy and physiology of the skin related to the application of dressings and wound supports
 12. the following regarding wound healing:
 1. the process of wound healing
 2. factors affecting wound healing
 3. potential complications of wound healing
 13. a working knowledge of:
 1. asepsis
 2. antisepsis
 3. cross infection
 14. how aseptic technique contributes to the control of infection
 15. potential sources of contamination when undertaking treatments and dressings and appropriate measures to reduce or deal with them
 16. the potential consequences of wound contamination
 17. a working knowledge of:
 1. the equipment and materials required for the treatments and dressings you are required to undertake
 2. why resources should be prepared before you start the activity
 3. the personal protective clothing and additional protective equipment which may be worn for the individuals and your protection
 18. the types of treatments that are undertaken within your work area and why they are carried out
 19. the types and purposes of dressings used within your work area
 20. the importance of following the treatment and dressing procedures exactly as it is specified, and the potential effects of not doing so
 21. the importance of packing up used equipment and soiled dressing materials prior to leaving the immediate care area
 22. how and where to dispose of soiled materials used for treatments and dressings
 23. why questions which are beyond your role or knowledge need to be passed onto the appropriate member of the care team
 24. a working knowledge of:
 1. the importance of keeping accurate and up to date records
 2. the specific records required for reporting on treatments and dressings carried out
 25. the importance of immediately reporting any issues which are outside your own sphere of competence without delay to the relevant member of staff

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

You must be able to do the following:

1. apply standard precautions for infection prevention and control and take other appropriate health and safety measures
2. check the individuals identity and the confirm the planned activity
3. give the individual relevant information, support and reassurance in a manner which is sensitive to their needs and concerns
4. gain valid consent to carry out the planned treatment and/or dressing
5. confirm all equipment and materials for treatments and dressings are:
 1. as prescribed/detailed in the individuals plan of care
 2. appropriate to the procedure
 3. fit for purpose
6. carry out the treatments and dressings:
 1. at an appropriate time according to the individuals plan of care
 2. using appropriate techniques
 3. in line with manufacturers instructions
 4. in a manner which optimises the patients comfort and dignity and minimises pain and trauma
7. observe the lesion/wound for any change in appearance
8. where there is a change of appearance in the lesions/wound apply a suitable alternative where this is within your own sphere of competence, or refer to an appropriate practitioner
9. observe the individual throughout the activity, recognise and report any condition or behaviour which may signify adverse reactions to the activity and take the appropriate action
10. maintain the sterility of the dressing prior to and during application
11. apply or attach dressings correctly
12. use suitable non-allergenic dressings where individual allergies have been identified
13. ensure that the pressure exerted by the dressing is consistent with the type of wound
14. dispose of waste appropriately
15. where appropriate, record the outcomes of the activity correctly using the method agreed in your care setting
16. report your findings and/or activity to the appropriate member of the care team

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This National Occupational Standard was developed by Skills for Health.

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB5 Provision of care to meet health and wellbeing needs