



COHESIVE HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT & CONSULTING

Mangum Regional Medical Center

TITLE		POLICY	
Dressing Preparation and Application		811	
MANUAL	EFFECTIVE DATE	REVIEW DATE	
Rehabilitation			
DEPARTMENT	REFERENCE		
Rehabilitation Services	Treatment of Pressure Ulcers, Clinical Practice Guideline, Number 15, US Dept of Health and Human Services		

SCOPE: All licensed physical therapy staff (PT/PTA) that will be providing wound care at Mangum Regional Medical Center.

PURPOSE: To establish guidelines for the preparation and application of dressings to ensure minimal risk of contamination.

POLICY: Dressings will be applied to wounds upon physician referral for wound care, hydrotherapy, dressing application, or procedure requiring removal and re-application of dressing.
If not specified by physician, the therapist will determine the topical agents and/or type of dressing to be utilized.
Physician order will be obtained for prescription topical agents prior to use.
Nonsterile gloves and a no touch technique will be utilized when removing or applying dressings to a wound.
Sterile gloves and sterile technique will be utilized when removing or applying a surgical dressing.

PROCEDURE:

1. General:
 - a. Hands are washed according to facility policy and procedure.
 - b. Provide privacy.
 - c. Explain procedure.
2. Preparation of sterile dressings:
 - a. A sterile towel is laid out carefully on a clean, dry surface with care to touch only the edges of the towel.
 - b. Dressings as requested by the therapist, are opened and placed carefully on the sterile towel.
 - c. Topical agents are applied to the dressing with care not to touch the dressing with the tube or any contaminated material.
 - d. Once the dressings are prepared, another sterile towel is placed over the field if the dressings are not going to be applied immediately.

3. Sterile dressing application:
 - a. Cover towel is removed from dressings and patient's wounds.
 - b. Sterile gloves are donned with appropriate technique.
 - c. Dressing is applied to the wound.
 - d. Anchor is applied to the dressing.
 - e. Hand hygiene will be performed and new sterile gloves must be donned after touching an infected wound(s) before dressing another infection free wound
4. "No-touch" technique:
 - a. Gather dressing supplies.
 - b. Open dressing packages just prior to use.
 - c. Don gloves.
 - d. Apply dressings without touching the wound or the surface of any dressing that may be in contact with the wound.
 - e. When dressing multiple wounds, if gloves become soiled with wound secretion, blood, or other contaminants, gloves will be removed, hands washed, and new gloves donned before coming in contact with remaining clean dressings or supplies.
 - f. Topical agents are applied to the dressing with care not to touch the dressing with the tube or any contaminated material.
 - g. Anchor is applied to the dressing.

REFERENCE: OSHA guideline: Exposure Category I

REVISIONS/UPDATES

Date	Brief Description of Revision/Change