

Quick Guide: Commonly used dressing products  
**Assess wound drainage (wet or light/dry)**



**IF WET: Mod-heavy draining wounds - Primary Dressing**

Dressing Category	Exudate	Frequency	Additional Info
Alginate	Mod-heavy	Q 1-2 day	If sticking, consider decreasing frequency or d/c. Comes in rope or sheet.
Hydrofiber	Mod-heavy	Q 1-2 day	Sheet (no rope version)
Mesalt	Mod-heavy	Q day	Comes in small sheet or packing strip.

**IF WET: Mod-heavy draining wounds - Secondary Dressing**

Dressing Category	Exudate	Frequency	Additional Info
Border gauze	Mod	Varies	
Foam	Heavy	CMS pays 3x/wkly	If ordered daily, facility pays for the other four per week. Avoid daily whenever possible.
Specialty absorptive	Heavy	Q day	Only silicone absorptive on EMR that is reimbursed for daily use. Consider instead of foam.

**IF DRY: For Light draining wounds**

Dressing Category	Exudate	Frequency	Additional Info
Hydrogel	Light-mod	Q 1-2 day	Cover with border gauze or nonstick, can cover with xeroform 3x/wkly.
Honey gel	Light-mod	Q 1-2 day	
Hydrocolloid	Light-mod	2-3x/week	

**Other Products**

Dressing Category	Exudate	Frequency	Additional Info
Collagenase (Santyl)	Any	Q day	Very expensive; use judiciously. On very wet wounds, can cover with alginate before secondary dressing.
Collagen	Any	Q 2 day	Expensive. Only on granulated beds. Comes in gel, powder, combination w alginate, etc. Best if not changed daily.
Hydrofera Blue	Mod-heavy	2x/week	Expensive. Color turns white when product needs to be changed. Titrate change frequency to color.
Transparent Film	DO NOT USE		This will tear fragile skin. Most facilities do not stock it.
Wet to dry	DO NOT USE		Was standard of care in 1970, this is not 1970.