

Wound Packing Procedure

Site Applicability

All VCH & PHC sites

Practice Level

Basic Skills for the following professions (within their respective scope of practice):

- NP, RN, RPN
- LPN (for wounds with a visible wound bed)

Advanced skill: Additional education required (**VCH Only**)

- LPNs for packing non-visible wound bed (undermining and sinus tracts/tunnels)

Policy Statement

VCH & PHC nurses will follow the Decision Support Tool (DST) developed by the Provincial Nursing Skin & Wound Committee (see guideline link below) when packing a wound.

Need to Know

The Provincial Nursing Skin and Wound Committee (PNSWC) developed this DST to provide standardized procedure for wound packing for all patients, clients and residents across the province.

For LPNs who work in Vancouver Community Home Health, additional education is required prior to performing cleansing on wound, which has undermining or sinus tracts/tunnels or does not have a visible wound bed, Additional Education Required consists of:

- Reviewing the e-learning Wound Packing module,
- An educational session for theory and hands-on practice of the skill
- Successful completion of the Competency Skills Checklist
- Ongoing mentorship of the skill

Practice Guideline

The Provincial DST [Procedure: Wound Packing](#) provides detailed guidance on the procedural steps for packing a wound with visible wound bed (no undermining or sinus/tunnel) and for packing a wound with a non-visible wound bed and/or with undermining or sinus/tunnel with, and without, a known endpoint.

The guideline also provides a guideline as to when it is necessary to count the packing pieces that are removed/inserted.

Expected Patient/Client/Resident Outcome

Patient/client/resident will have his/her wound packed in a manner that is safe and that will promote healing of the wound.

Documentation

The packing count is to be documented on the paper Wound Assessment & Treatment Flow Sheet or electronically on the Wound Assessment/Treatment section of Cerner or Picalere, or for Urgent Care Centre/Emergency Department in the progress notes

Related Documents

- Wound Management for Adults and Children ([BD-00-07-40098](#))
- Wound Cleansing Procedure ([BD-00-12-40072](#))
- eLearning Module: [Wound Cleansing](#)
- eLearning Module: [Wound Packing](#)

References

See Procedure document.

Revised by

Provincial Nursing Skin and Wound Committee in collaboration with Regional Skin & Wound Committees from NHA, IHA, FHA, VIHA, PHSA & VCH/PHC

VCH/PHC representatives on the Provincial Nursing Skin & Wound Committee:

CET, Lions Gate Hospital

CWOON, PHC

CWOON, Vancouver Community

Nurse Clinician, Burn Plastic Trauma Unit, VGH

Professional Practice Initiatives Lead, Wound Ostomy Continence Nursing, VCH

WOC Nurse, Vancouver General Hospital

Wound Clinician, Richmond Home Care

Endorsed by

VCH: (Regional SharePoint 2nd Reading)

Health Authority Professional Specific Advisory Council Chairs (HAPSAC)

Health Authority Interprofessional Advisory Council Chairs (HAIAAC)

VCH Operations Directors

VCH Professional Practice Directors

PHC: Professional Practice Standards Committee

Final Sign-off & Approved for Posting by

Vice President Professional Practice and Chief Clinical Information Officer, VCH

Professional Practice Standards Committee, PHC

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