

Wound Cleansing Procedure

Site Applicability

All VCH & PHC sites

Practice Level

Basic skill 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 cleansing 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 cleansing a wound.

Need to Know

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

For LPNs who work in Vancouver Community, 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 Cleansing 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

Procedure Guideline

The Provincial DST [Procedure: Wound Cleansing](#) provides detailed guidance on how to determine the appropriate aseptic technique to be used for the procedure as well the procedural steps for cleansing a wound without undermining or sinus/tunnel and for cleansing a wound with undermining or sinus/tunnel with and without a known endpoint.

Expected Patient/Client/Resident Outcomes

Patient/client/resident will have his/her wound cleansed in an appropriate manner with the appropriate aseptic technique for their situation.

Documentation

Done as part of the documentation for care that was provided as per the treatment plan/care plan.

Related Documents

- Wound Management for Adults and Children ([BD-00-07-40098](#))
- Wound Packing Procedure ([BD-00-12-40073](#))

Note: This is a **controlled** document for VCH & PHC internal use. Any documents appearing in paper form should always be checked against the electronic version prior to use. The electronic version is always the current version.

- 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

CWO CN, Evergreen Vancouver Community

WOC Nurse, Vancouver General Hospital

Wound Clinician Richmond Home Care

CWO CN, PHC

Professional Practice Initiatives Lead, Wound Ostomy Continence Nursing, VCH

Endorsed by

VCH: *(Regional SharePoint 2nd Reading)*

Health Authority Professional Specific Advisory Council Chairs (HAPSAC)

Health Authority Interprofessional Advisory Council Chairs (HA IAC)

VCH Operations Directors

VCH Professional Practice Directors

PHC Professional Practice Standards Committee

Final Sign-off & Approval for Posting by

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Professional Practice Standards Committee, PHC

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