

## Lancashire County Council IPC Guidance – Wound Dressing.

### Non-Clinical Procedure.

Nursing / residential homes can be isolated at times and in cases of accidents happening such as a skin tear, pressure ulcers, burns or newly found traumatic wounds, cuts, or scratches that break the skin, appropriate measures must be taken to prevent infection and to give the wound the best chance to heal.

Depending on the type of wound a district nurse referral may need to be sent. A risk assessment must be carried out and documented on the course of action taken.

Until further advice can be sought a temporary dressing will need to be applied to the wound site. These are dressings that have not been prescribed for the individual person but are available for purchase over the counter in a pharmacy and are held as stock by the home to enable staff in care homes to safely cover the wound as a first aid measure.

In homes providing 'nursing care' the dressing will be used to safely cover the wound until an appropriate dressing is obtained on FP10 prescription. This will be at the discretion of the nurse in charge in consultation with the local tissue viability nurse where appropriate. In homes providing 'personal care' the dressing will be used to safely cover the wound until a district nurse can attend to assess it. Dressings should only be applied at the discretion of the senior person on duty. Procedure

- Ensure the comfort of the client.
- Ensure client understands the procedure.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions as provided with dressings in the box.
- Check that the dressing to be used is still in date.
- Decontaminate hands with soap and water or alcohol rub, put on disposable gloves before attending to the wound.
- Select a dressing where the foam pad overlaps the wound edge by a minimum of 1-2 centimetres. If the wound is too big to be covered safely by a 10cm x 10cm dressing advice should be taken from the district nurse immediately.
- Remove the dressing carefully from the packaging.
- Remove the protective handles and ensure that the dressing is applied to the wound without touching the surface of the dressing that will be next to the wound.
- Remove gloves and put in appropriate waste stream.
- Decontaminate hands.
- Nursing or medical advice should be sought immediately if the wound is deep, bleeding heavily or too big to be safely covered by a 10cm x 10cm dressing.

