

CHS14 Remove wound closure materials from individuals

OVERVIEW

This standard covers removing wound closure materials from individuals. It is applicable in a variety of care settings including hospitals, care homes, the individuals own home or other community settings such as GP surgeries. This standard involves removing and disposing of wound closure materials using an aseptic technique and following local guidelines and procedures, as and when directed by a competent practitioner. Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies. Version No 1

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

You will need to know and understand:

1. The current European and National legislation, national guidelines, organisational policies and protocols in accordance with Clinical/Corporate Governance which affect your work practice in relation to removing wound closure materials from individuals
2. Your responsibilities and accountability in relation to the current European and National legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols and Clinical/Corporate Governance
3. The duty to report any acts or omissions in care that could be detrimental to yourself, other individuals or your employer
4. The importance of applying standard precautions to removing wound closure materials from individuals and the potential consequences of poor practice
5. The importance of working within your own sphere of competence and seeking advice when faced with situations outside your sphere of competence
6. What valid consent means and why it must be obtained and confirmed prior to actions being taken
7. Why individuals should be supported and told about the nature of the activity
8. The concerns and worries which individuals or client groups may have in relation to some clinical procedures
9. The adverse reactions which may occur following procedures and how to identify and deal with these
10. The anatomy and physiology of the skin and underlying tissues in relation to:
 1. the type of wound closure material used
 2. the removal of wound closure material
11. The following regarding wound healing:

- 1.the process of wound healing
- 2.factors affecting wound healing
- 3.potential complications of wound healing
- 12.The following:
 - 1.asepsis
 - 2.antisepsis
 - 3.cross infection
- 13.How aseptic technique contributes to the control of infection
- 14.Potential sources of contamination when undertaking removal of wound closure material and appropriate measures to reduce or deal with them
- 15.The potential consequences of wound contamination
- 16.The following:
 - 1.the equipment and materials required for removing wound closure materials from individuals' wounds
 - 2.why resources should be prepared before you start the activity
 - 3.the personal protective clothing and additional protective equipment which may be worn for the individual's and your protection
- 17.The importance of following the procedure exactly as it is specified, and the potential effects of not doing so
- 18.The importance of packing away used equipment and soiled dressings prior to leaving the immediate care area
- 19.How and where to dispose of used equipment and soiled materials used for treatments and dressings
- 20.Why questions which are beyond your role or knowledge need to be passed onto the appropriate member of the care team
- 21.The following regarding records:
 - 1.the importance of keeping accurate and up to date records
 - 2.the specific records required for reporting on the removal of wound closure materials
- 22.The importance of immediately reporting any issues which are outside your own sphere of competence without delay to the relevant member of staff

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

You must be able to do the following:

- 1.apply standard precautions for infection prevention and control and take other appropriate health and safety measures
- 2.check the individual's identity and the confirm the planned activity
- 3.give the individual relevant information, support and reassurance in a manner which is sensitive to their needs and concerns
- 4.gain valid consent to carry out removal of the wound closure material
- 5.confirm all equipment and materials are:
 - 1.appropriate to the method of removal of wound closure material
 - 2.fit for purpose
- 6.confirm the absence of contra-indications to removing wound closure material

7. carry out removal of the wound closure material:
 1. causing the individual minimal distress, discomfort or pain
 2. at an appropriate time according to the individual's plan of care
 3. following the agreed procedure
 4. using the correct technique
8. stop the activity, reassure the individual and seek advice without delay if you have any problems in removing the wound closure material
9. ensure all wound closure material had been completely removed
10. dispose of waste appropriately
11. observe the individuals throughout the activity
12. recognise and report any condition or behaviour which may signify adverse reactions to the activity and take the appropriate action
13. record the outcomes of the activity correctly using the method agreed in your care setting
14. report your findings and/or activity to the appropriate member of the care team

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This National Occupational Standard was developed by Skills for Health. This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004): Dimension: HWB5 Provision of care to meet health and wellbeing needs