

PCS18 Prepare, apply and attach dressings, wound supports and drains to patients

OVERVIEW

This standard covers assisting with the preparation and application of dressings, wound supports and drains following surgical intervention. You will be working in a 'scrubbed' role whilst undertaking these activities. 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 preparing, applying and attaching dressings, wound supports and drains to patients
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 working within your own sphere of competence and seeking advice when faced with situations outside your sphere of competence
5. The application of standard precautions to the preparation and application of dressings, wound supports and drains and the of potential consequences of poor practice
6. The anatomy of the skeleton and peripheral nervous system related to the application of cast materials
7. The anatomy and physiology of the skin related to the application of dressings and wound supports
8. The principles of wound healing
9. Potential complications of wound healing
10. The following:
 1. asepsis
 2. antisepsis
 3. cross infection
11. How the surgical field contributes to the control of infection
12. Potential sources of contamination when preparing surgical fields and appropriate

- measures to reduce or deal with them
- 13.The types and action of pathogens specific to the surgical patient and wound infection
 - 14.The potential consequences of wound contamination
 - 15.The types, purpose and function of medical devices used in the application of dressings, wound supports and drains
 - 16.Potential hazards associated with the use of medical devices used in the application of dressings, wound supports and drains
 - 17.Factors which affect the choice of medical devices for individual patients
 - 18.Factors which affect the choice of appropriate sites for attaching medical devices during patient preparation
 - 19.Factors to consider in choosing dressings, wound supports and drains for individual patients
 - 20.The principles of wound care and dressings, including peripheral circulation assessment (manual or Doppler) wound care and drainage
 - 21.Methods and techniques for preparing and applying dressings and wound supports
 - 22.Methods and techniques for preparing, attaching and securing drains
 - 23.The scrub role in relation to the application of dressings, wound supports and drains and how this promotes effective team practice
 - 24.The specific lines of accountability within the surgical team
 - 25.The information which should be recorded in relation to the application of dressings, wound supports and drains
 - 26.The importance of recording information relating to the application of dressings, wound supports and drains
 - 27.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 other relevant health and safety measures
- 2.give the patient relevant information, support and reassurance in a manner which is sensitive to their needs and concerns
- 3.select and prepare an appropriate dressing or wound support to suit the size and type of wound
- 4.use suitable non-allergenic dressings where patient allergies have been identified
- 5.prepare specified drains ready for use
- 6.apply or attach the dressing, wound support or drain:
 - 1.using appropriate techniques
 - 2.in line with manufacturer's instructions
 - 3.in a manner which optimises the patient's comfort and dignity and minimises pain and trauma
- 7.maintain the sterility of the sterile dressing or wound support prior to and during application
- 8.check that:
 - 1.the pressure exerted by the dressing or wound support is consistent with the type of wound

- 2.drains are secured effectively and appropriately
- 3.vacuum seals on drains are intact
- 4.drains are positioned to prevent inappropriate syphonage and/or patient harm
- 9.ensure required information regarding the attached dressings, wound supports and drains are noted in the patient's documentation

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: HWB7 Interventions and treatments