

<b>SECTION 8A: CLINICAL PRACTICES</b>	<b>POLICY: 8A.24</b>
<b>POLICY: WOUND CARE EDUCATION PRACTICES</b>	<b>PAGE: 1 OF: 2</b>

**PURPOSE:**

- To ensure proper wound care procedure to minimize infection risk and promote healing.

**POLICY:**

- Wound care will be performed by a trained registered nurse in accordance with a physician's order, any available / provided pharmacy instructions, and Agency policy.

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- Proper care of wounds is necessary to prevent infection and speed the body's healing process.
- Wound care can range from simple wet-to-dry dressings to more extensive wounds requiring wound vacuum-assisted closure (WVAC).

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

- Helms Home Care is an infusion nursing services provider that can provide wound care in conjunction with a scheduled infusion nursing services visit. However, if a patient requires wound care services on days that do not include/require infusion services, special authorization must be provided by the Pharmacy / payor source prior to acceptance of the patient and inclusion of wound care as part of the patient's Plan of Treatment.
- For basic wound care dressings, the expectation may be for the nurse to teach the patient and/or caregiver to perform the dressing change independently. This shall be confirmed with the Pharmacy / referral source prior to acceptance of the referral.

**PROCEDURE: Wound Dressing Change**

1. Check patient ID and verify patient information.
2. Explain procedure and purpose to patient/caregiver.
3. Perform initial Hand Hygiene and maintain it throughout the procedure.
4. Obtain a full set of vital signs to include blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate, and temperature.

Policies & Procedures



<b>SECTION 8A: CLINICAL PRACTICES</b>	<b>POLICY: 8A.24</b>
<b>POLICY: WOUND CARE EDUCATION PRACTICES</b>	<b>PAGE: 2 OF: 2</b>

5. Review physician's order and special instructions. Assemble supplies on a clean, dry surface.
6. Conduct a wound assessment. The nurse should note the wound location, size including the length, width, depth, any wound odor or exudate, and any notable progress toward healing or change in condition.
7. Cleanse the wound and change the wound dressing in accordance with orders.
8. Once the dressing is changed, date and initial the dressing. Assist the patient back into a comfortable position.
9. Clean up your workspace and properly discard of all waste.
10. Document all assessments mentioned in step 6 and note if the patient reports any additional pain or discomfort after the dressing change.

**PROCEDURE: Wound Vacuum-Assisted Closure (VAC)**

1. Follow steps 1 – 7 above.
2. After cleansing the wound as ordered, place a foam or gauze dressing (bandage) directly on the wound.
3. Cover this dressing with a clear film that seals to the skin around the wound.
4. Insert a tube into a small opening in the clear film and connect the other end to a vacuum pump.
5. Document the condition of the wound, type of bandage used, and the level of suction.