

WOUND DRESSING CATEGORIES

Category	Description	Indications	Disadvantages	Reminders		
Calcium Alginates	Non-woven mass of calcium- sodium alginate fibers that form moisture retentive gel on contact with wound fluid; non occlusive, derived from brown seaweed – rope or flat dressing form Requires secondary dressing cover	 Partial to full thickness wounds with moderate to heavy exudates Autolytic debridement of yellow slough in deep wounds with uneven wound beds Odor control 	 Are not recommended for wounds with light exudate or dry eschar If wound bed dry, the dressing will not form gel and may adhere to granulation tissue causing trauma 	 Irrigate wound between dressing changes Do not use in dry wound It is inappropriate to moisten this product before using or to use with hydrogel. 		
Gauze	Absorbent, 100% meshed cotton fabric, available in pads, strips, and rolls, of either tightly or loosely woven material. Used as primary and secondary dressing.	 Superficial and cavity wounds Wounds with moderate to heavy drainage Filler for packing dead space in large wounds Mechanical debridement of slough – (wet to dry) 	 Some products may shed, leaving lint in wound bed Permeable to moisture and bacteria leading to risk of contamination 	• If wound becomes too dry, removal will cause trauma to wound bed		
Hydrocolloids	Occlusive wafer dressing, containing hydrophilic colloidal particles (pectin, gelatin, elastomers) in an adhesive compound laminated onto a flexible water resistant outer layer Used as secondary dressing.	 Autolytic debridement of minimal to moderate amount of slough/necrosis Prevent secondary infection from contamination Maintain moist wound surface Provide limited to moderate absorption 	 Occlusive properties can promote infection in high risk patients (anaerobic infection) May dislodge with shearing or friction Dislodges with heavy exudates May tear fragile surrounding skin when removed Unpleasant odor upon removal 	 Should not be used on infected wounds. Change every 3 – 5 days Do not use with fungal lesions, herpetic lesions, wounds with deep tunnels, tracts and undermining Apply wafer 1-2 inches larger than wound May secure edges with tape 		
Hydrogels	Semipermeable hydrophilic polymers composed primarily of water or glycerin; available in gel, sheets, or impregnated gauze form Requires a secondary dressing	 Support autolytic debridement due to moisturizing effects Maintain moist wound surface Pain relief in radiation- damaged tissue and superficial burns 	 Not indicated for heavily draining wounds May contribute to periwound maceration Not indicated for management of chickenpox and shingles lesions, and 3rd degree burns. 	 Sheet form is most appropriate for partial thickness wounds, should be cut to fit the wound, change every other day. Gel form frequency is once or twice a day. Do not use sheet form if wound is clinically infected 		



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Transparent Films	Adhesive, transparent polyurethane and polyethylene films, semi permeable membrane dressing that is waterproof yet permit oxygen and water vapor to cross the barrier while remaining impermeable to bacteria and contaminates Used as secondary dressing.	 Supports autolytic debridement Maintain moist wound surface Provides protection from friction, shear, microbes and chemicals Allow visualization of wound Used as cover dressing 	 Does not adhere well in moist areas The adhesive may cause stripping of surrounding skin Not recommended for exudative wounds Contributes to peri-wound maceration Contraindicated with infected wounds 	 Need approximately 2 inch border of intact skin Skin must be clean and dry, some manufacturers recommend defatting skin with alcohol and then using sealant prior to application Frequency change is every 3 days A build up of exudates is indicative of autolytic debridement and a normal occurrence, change if exudate is beyond wound borders. 			
	TOPICAL OINTMENTS						
Product Descr	iption			Reminders			
Antibiotic Ointr are useful for min term usage of an positive cocci an Bactroban – effer gram-negative or bacilli, Neospori combination of F	 Requires secondary dressing Should not be used in deep cavity wounds 						
Medihoney - Pro Cleanses and deb Non-toxic, natura	• Available in alginate, colloid, and tube						
Polysporin Pow cocci and bacilli, proteus and serra	Sensitization can occur after long term usage.						
Silvadene Ointm Pseudomonas aer	 available by prescription only Hepatic and renal impairment 						
Santyl Ointmen tissue; use once a	• available by prescription only.						
Xenaderm Oint stimulant with a epithelial desicca moisture barrier/	 Do not apply to fresh arterial clots a temporary stinging may occur at application 						