

Infection Prevention During Wound Care Procedures



Part 2: Standard Precautions for Wound Care



Objectives



1

Discuss risks for infection transmission with wound care procedures

2

Describe infection prevention practices to prevent transmission of infections with wound care

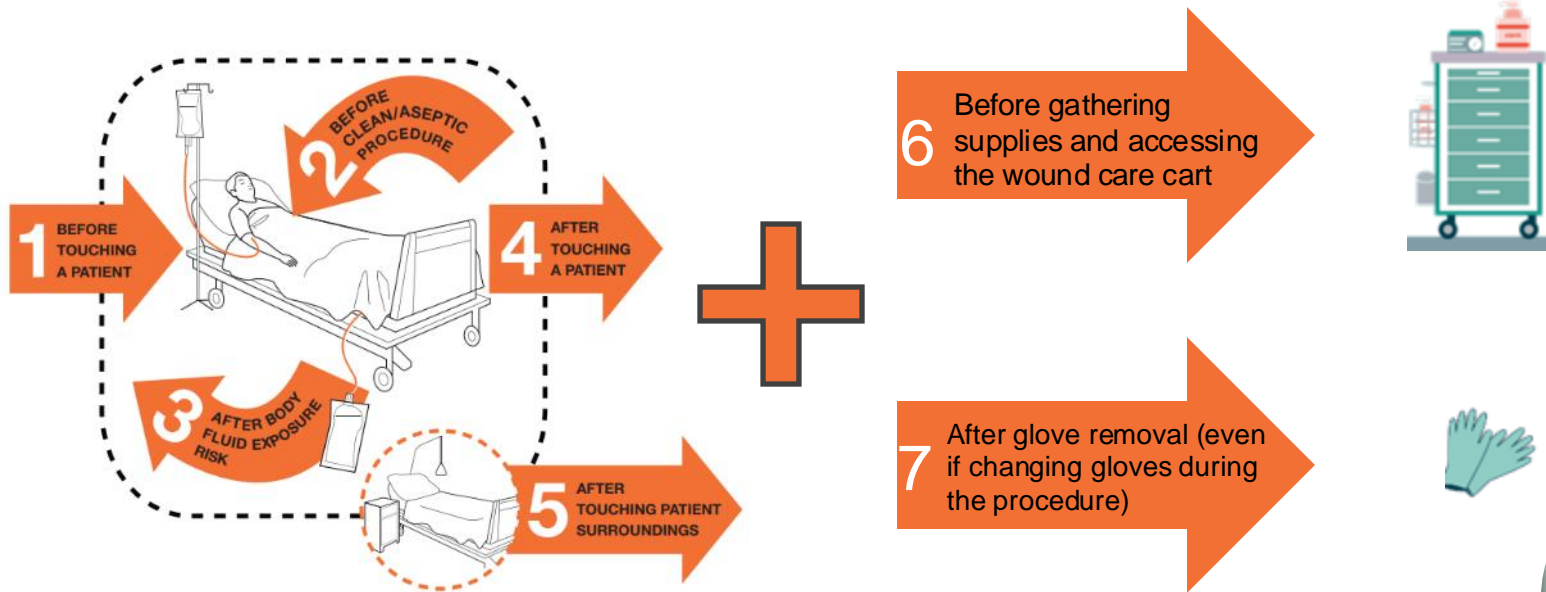
3

Identify how to apply infection prevention to wound care procedures

Standard Precautions for Wound Care



Hand Hygiene: Wound Care 7 Moments



Source: World Health Organization. WHO Guidelines on hand hygiene in health care. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization. 2009. p. 99-123 www.who.int/infection-prevention/publications/hand-hygiene-2009/en/
CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/hcp/hand-hygiene/index.html>, <https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/hcp/core-practices/index.html>,
<https://www.train.org/virginia/course/1081811/details>



Scenario 2 Question



- A physician at an acute care hospital is preparing to do a wound care procedure on a patient in the ICU. He does the following:
 - Gathers supplies, goes to the patient's room, and sets up the wound care field on the bedside table.
 - Puts on gloves and begins the wound care procedure by removing the soiled bandage.
 - Irrigates the wound and then changes gloves.
 - Applies ointment to the wound and dresses it with a clean bandage.
 - Discards used supplies, removes his gloves, and exits the room.
- *At what points in this scenario should he have performed hand hygiene?*

Scenario 2 Answer

- ***At what points in the wound care scenario should the physician have performed hand hygiene?***
 - **Answer:** He should have performed hand hygiene:
 - Before gathering supplies
 - Before touching the patient, and
 - Before and after the wound care procedure and removing gloves (both times)

Reference: <https://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/recommendations/core-practices.html>



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



Wear gloves during wound care procedures

- Change gloves & do hand hygiene when moving from dirty to clean tasks



Wear a gown if there will be direct contact with the patient/resident or wound procedures that may cause splashes or sprays



Use eye/face protection (e.g., masks/ face shields) during procedures that may cause splashes or aerosols*

*During a Group A *Streptococcus* outbreak, facemasks should be worn for all wound care

Scenario 3 Question

- A medical student is preparing to perform wound care to a large wound on the buttocks of a patient being seen in the wound care clinic. The medical student has been instructed to irrigate the buttock wound.
 - *What PPE should she wear to protect herself?*



Scenario 3 Answer

- *What PPE should she wear for the irrigation procedure to protect herself?*
 - **Answer:** She should be wearing gloves, a gown and eye protection and masks in case of splash, spray, or aerosolization during the procedure.



Reference: <https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/hcp/core-practices/index.html>

Storage & Use of Supplies



Gather supplies prior to entering the patient/resident care area and only take what you need for the individual

- Any clean, unused disposable supplies that enter the care area should remain with that resident or discarded



Dedicate medication containers (e.g., creams, sprays, ointments, vials) to an individual patient/resident

- Store all multi-dose containers in a dedicated, clean area
- For use in procedures, dispense a small amount of medication in a disposable container to take to the bedside for use

Wound Care Cart



- Carts should never enter the patient/resident care area
- Always handle supplies with clean hands
- When not in use, keep the supply cart in a designated, clean area
- If taken out of the designated storage area, clean prior to returning to storage

Scenario 4 Question



- A physician assistant in an emergency department is performing wound care on a pressure ulcer of the heel. He does the following:
 - Gathers supplies: an open bottle of wound wash and half-used tube of bacterial ointment that are shared among other patients, bandage scissors, and a box of bandages.
 - Puts the bandage scissors in his lab coat pocket and proceeds into the patient's room, carrying the remainder of the items in his hands.
- *Based on this information, what infection prevention practices could he improve on in the future when gathering and transporting supplies?*

Scenario 4 Answer



- ***What infection prevention practices could the physician assistant improve on in the future when gathering and transporting supplies?***
 - **Answer:**
 - Multidose topical wound care medications, like the wound wash and ointment, should be dedicated to an individual patient/resident, whenever possible.
 - Dedicated containers should be properly labeled and stored in a manner to prevent cross-contamination or use on another resident.
 - Regardless if they are dedicated to an individual or multiple individuals, all multi-dose containers should be stored in a clean, dedicated area.
 - When it comes time for the procedure, a small amount of medication can be put in a small, disposable container, like a medicine cup, and taken to the bedside for use
 - Wound care supplies, like the scissors, should not be transported in pockets.

Setting Up a Wound Care Field

- Choose a clean, solid surface away from contamination
- Clean and disinfect the surface (e.g., over bed table) that will be used for the wound care field
- Put a clean fluid resistant barrier over the surface
- Place clean supplies on the field
- Maintain a separation of clean and dirty during the procedure
- Never place dirty dressings on or near the clean field



Image source: Virginia Dept of Health (Canva)

Scenario 5 Question

- A nurse enters the room to do wound care and is preparing to set up supplies for the wound care field. *Where is the best place to set up a wound care field?*
 - a) On a paper towel next to the sink
 - b) On a disposable underpad on the bed
 - c) Directly on the bed, as close to the patient as possible
 - d) On a disinfected over bed table, with a barrier sheet



Scenario 5 Answer

- ***Where is the best place to set up a wound care field?***
 - **Answer:** d) On a disinfected over bed table, with a barrier sheet

References:

<https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/media/pdfs/ipc-mod8-wound-care-508.pdf>;
<https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/hcp/basics/standard-precautions.html>



Cleaning and Disinfection: Environmental Surfaces & Reusable Wound Care Equipment

- Clean and disinfect or sterilize reusable wound care equipment after each use.
 - Follow manufacturer's instructions
- Transport and store reusable equipment to prevent contamination
 - Bandage scissors should not be carried in pockets
- Clean and disinfect surfaces in the treatment area after the wound care procedure



Resources



CDC

- Nursing Home Infection Preventionist Training Course (Module 10: Infection Prevention During Wound Care)
 - <https://www.train.org/virginia/course/1081811/details>
 - *Note: Requires registering for a free TRAIN account*
- Infection Prevention and Control Assessment Tool for General Infection Prevention and Control Across Settings: Wound Care
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/media/pdfs/ipc-mod8-wound-care-508.pdf>
 - Includes assessment items for basic infection prevention and control

Resources



Virginia Department of Health

- Wound care infection prevention and control guidance and observation tool
 - <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/174/2023/10/VDH-Wound-Care-IPC-Tool-Checklist-External-Use-1.pdf>
- Wound care quick guide for nursing home infection preventionists
 - https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/174/2023/11/Quick-Guide_WoundCare_FINAL.pdf

Minnesota Department of Health: Wound Care Infection Prevention Recommendations for Long-Term Care Facilities

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/patientsafety/infectioncontrol/woundcare.pdf>

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THANK YOU



Visit the VDH HAI/AR Website:
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/haiar/>

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