

Recommended IPC Practices During Wound Care



Standard Precautions should be applied during wound care procedures:

Performance of Hand Hygiene

- Before and after wound care, even if gloves will be worn.
- After removal of PPE, including if gloves are changed during the procedure.
- When moving from a dirty task to a clean task.

Proper Selection of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Gloves should be worn during all wound care procedures.
- Gowns should be worn when wound care requires significant contact with the patient/resident or their immediate environment.
- Goggles and a facemask or face shield: should be worn during wound care procedures that may generate splashes or aerosols.

Proper handling of wound care supplies, including medications.

- The clean supply cart and/or caddy should never enter the patient/resident room.
- Supplies on the cart or caddy should only be handled with clean hands.
- Supplies should be placed on a clean surface.
- Maintain separation between clean and dirty supplies.
 - If multiple wounds, each wound should have its own dressing change supplies and should start dressing changes from cleanest wound to dirtiest.
- Unused supplies should not return to the supply cart or caddy (dedicate or discard).
- Sprays or containers of medication (creams, ointments) should be dedicated to an individual, whenever possible.
 - A small amount of medication should be allocated for single patient/resident use prior to the procedure.
 - The remainder of the multi-dose container should be properly stored in a dedicated clean area.
- Containers entering patient/resident care areas should be dedicated to that patient/resident.

Cleaning and disinfection of:

- Environmental surfaces and reusable wound care equipment can serve as sources of pathogen transmission if they are not properly cleaned and disinfected.
- Reusable wound care equipment should be cleaned and disinfected after each use.
- Any surface in the treatment area that could have been contaminated during wound care should be immediately cleaned and disinfected after the procedure.