

Appendix B
Dressing Selection

Dressing Category: Gauze Absorbency: Minimal Wear Time 4-8 hours up to 24 hours		
Description	Indications	Nursing Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> made of cotton, rayon, or combination mesh various sizes available (strips, sheets, packing) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cover (secondary) dressing fills dead space mechanical wet to dry debridement mildly exudating wounds used to fill narrow areas (such as tunneling) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> frequency of dressing change depends on amount of exudate one continuous length of packing must be used with one end of the packing left out of the wound to ensure complete removal of the packing takes place. fill wound cavities lightly and completely does not provide moist wound healing does not provide bacterial barrier may adhere to wound bed document approximately how much packing was needed
	Contraindications	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> primary dressing for granulating wounds as removal may cause trauma and pain to healthy tissue 	
Dressing Category: Non-Adherent - Plastic Coated Dressings Absorbency: Minimal Wear Time: 4-8 hours up to 24 hours		
Description	Indications	Nursing Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> perforated plastic films with absorptive pad backing minimally adherent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> surgical or traumatic wounds with minimal drainage protects post-operative incision* can maintain wound hydration* enhances action of hydrogels by providing semioclusion* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> frequency of dressing change depends on amount of exudate may damage tissue on removal may macerate periwound skin, protect with suitable barrier*
	Contraindications	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> necrotic wounds, exudating wounds, or fragile epithelializing tissue (healing tissue) 	

* RNAO Best Practice Guidelines

Dressing Category: Non-Adherent – Petrolatum Impregnated Gauze Absorbency: Minimal Wear Time: 4-8 hours up to 24 hours		
Description	Indications	Nursing Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contain petrolatum* • some dressings contain minimal amounts of antibiotics or antiseptics* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • best used as a nonadherent contact dressing • donor sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • frequency of dressing change depends on amount of exudate • loosely impregnated gauze may allow granulating tissue to grow between the fibers which may cause trauma upon removal • a secondary cover dressing is required to absorb drainage and enhance stability* • products containing antiseptics and antibiotics assist with local bacterial control in a colonized wound* • long term use increases risk of local sensitization and the development of resistant bacteria. Infection requires appropriate systemic management* • consider alternative product if dressing adheres to wound bed*
	Contraindications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • heavily exudating wounds • layering dressings increases semi-occlusion and are contraindicated for infected wounds* 	
* RNAO Best Practice Guidelines Dressing Category: Non-Adherent – Silicone or Polyurethane Mesh Minimally adherent dressings Absorbency: None Wear Time: up to 7 days		
Description	Indications	Nursing Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • non-adhesive silicone or polyurethane mesh • some are adhesive • allows drainage to seep through pores onto secondary dressing# 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • granulating or epithelializing wounds • use on wound bed that should not be disturbed or is extremely sensitive to pain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overlap intact skin surface by 2-3 cm • leave mesh in place up to 7 days • irrigate wound over top of mesh dressing • cover dressing can be replaced as needed; leaving mesh in place
	Contraindications	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> heavily exudating wounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> may use antibacterial or antifungal cream overtop of silicone polyurethane mesh. 	
Dressing Category: Calcium Alginate- Non woven composite of fibers from calcium alginate, a cellulose-like polysaccharide Absorbency: Maximum Wear Time: 1 to 7 days			
Description	Indications	Nursing Considerations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> non adhesive* has hemostatic properties (calcium and sodium interact to promote clotting)* applied in a dry state* available in ropes and sheets when in contact with wound exudate, a soft gel forms, maintaining a moist environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> moderate to heavily exudating wounds but only if the entire wound base is visible wounds with visible depth requiring soft filler* fragile bleeding wound, (post sharp debridement), donor sites and friable tissue may be used if wound infected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> frequency of dressing change depends on amount of exudate If the entire wound base is not visible, a calcium alginate or non-reinforced hydrofibre must not be used as there is an increased risk of the dressing being left in the wound. requires a secondary dressing - moisture retentive cover dressing to avoid drying by evaporation* remove residue by flushing with saline; some fiber residue can be reabsorbed* document approximately how much packing material was needed 	
	Contraindications		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> wounds that do not have exudate wounds with deep sinuses or cavities if entire wound base is not visible 		

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Dressing Category: Hydrofiber Soft non-woven fibrous sheet or packing strip of sodium carboxymethylcellulose Absorbency: Maximum Wear Time: 1 to 7 days			
Description	Indications	Nursing Considerations	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> highly absorbent fibrous wound filler/dressing apply dry* converts to a solid gel when activated by moisture* fibers maintain integrity in gel-state, facilitating intact removal* non-adhesive* vertically absorbs, contains drainage* 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> partial and full thickness wounds with moderate to high exudate wound with a visible base* prevents trauma to fragile wound bed* prevents leakage and peri-wound skin breakdown*
	Contraindications		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> wound with minimal to no drainage If the entire wound base is not visible, a non-reinforced hydrofibre must not be used
Dressing Category: Hypertonic Saline Gauze – Sheet or ribbon gauze impregnated with salt concentrate Absorbency: Maximum Wear Time: 24 hours			
Description	Indications	Nursing Considerations	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> absorbs drainage becoming an isotonic normal saline dressing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> copiously draining wounds* debridement of slough* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> apply dry evaluate for alternative product when drainage decreases or wound bed becomes clean* may be painful for sensitive wound beds* requires moisture-retentive cover dressing* 	
	Contraindications		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> infected wounds* may damage granulation tissue if drainage is minimal* 		

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Dressing Category: Hydrogels Absorbency: Minimal Wear Time: 1-3 Days*		
Description	Indications	Nursing Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • available as liquid gels, solid sheets or embedded into gauze dressings* • provides moisture to wound bed promoting moist wound healing • available in isotonic, hypertonic 20% solution or water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • granulating and epithelializing wounds • minimally exudating wounds* • prevents dressing adherence, bleeding or pain • use in wounds requiring autolytic debridement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • frequency of dressing change is dependent on the amount of exudate • monitor closely for infection during autolysis* • protect peri-wound skin from maceration with suitable barrier* • gel can be applied to gauze ribbon packing to lightly fill deep areas and to promote autolytic debridement* • secondary dressing is required to retain moisture, absorb excess drainage and to stabilize gel over wound* • can be used in combination with transparent films, foams, hydrocolloids or other non adherent cover dressings* • monitor closely for maceration and hypergranulation • soothing, cooling, reduces pain • single application use
	Contraindications	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • solid sheet should not be used on infected wounds 	

* RNAO Best Practice Guidelines

Dressing Category: Hydrocolloids – may contain gelatin, sodium carboxymethylcellulose and pectin* Absorbency: Minimal-Moderate Wear Time: 2-7 Days		
Description	Indications	Nursing Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> occlusive or semi-occlusive dressing providing a moist wound environment and low oxygen gradient within the wound bed limited moisture and gas transmission protects wound from contamination; impermeable to bacteria available in adhesive sheets, powders, or pastes* sheet dressings have an occlusive polyurethane outer layer* thickness, size, absorption capability and transparency varies* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> wounds with minimal drainage and those requiring debridement* promotes granulation* use as a moisture retentive secondary dressing over an absorbent filler* used to protect periwound skin from tape injury when frequent dressing changes are required* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> frequency of dressing change is dependent on amount of exudate remove dressing carefully to prevent trauma to peri-wound skin; stretch product to break adhesive bond upon removal may leave characteristic odor and dressing residue, flush to remove residue use liquid skin barriers on peri-wound skin to decrease risk of maceration and to increase adherence* use of additional tape or transparent film dressings to edges may improve stability in areas of high stress* sheet can be customized to fit difficult areas. Size must always extend 2.5-5 cm beyond wound margins to ensure adherence and wear time*
	Contraindications	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> heavily exudating wounds* infected wounds presence of hypergranulation tissue 	

* RNAO Best Practice Guidelines

Dressing Category: Moisture Retentive: Transparent Films Absorbency: None Wear Time: up to 7 days		
Description	Indications	Nursing Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • semi-permeable adhesive sheets* • impermeable to water molecules and bacteria* • incapable of absorbing moisture* • transparency permits wound visualization* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protects intact skin from friction or irritants* • superficial wounds and skin tears with minimal to no drainage* • autolytic debridement* • wounds at the re-epithelializing stage • skin graft donor sites • secondary cover dressing to enhance moisture and odor containment* • decreases wound pain by protecting superficial nerve endings* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inappropriate removal of dressing can cause skin stripping • to remove, stretch product to break adhesive bond • assess for maceration to peri-wound skin • use of liquid skin barriers on peri-wound skin provides protection and increases adhesion* • requires 4-5 cm of intact dry peri-wound skin for adhesion • assess for maceration and skin stripping with incorrect removal of product – to remove stretch product to break adhesive bond • may be used as a secondary dressing with gels, alginates, foams and hydrofibres
	Contraindications	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exudating or infected wounds • evidence of yeast infection to peri wound skin* 	

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Dressing Category: Foams – semi-permeable non-adherent polyurethane foam Absorbency: Moderate to Maximum Wear Time: 1 to 7 days		
Description	Indications	Nursing Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides moist environment and thermal insulation • permeable to water and gases • products with adhesive border may provide occlusion* • expands and conforms to wounds with unusual configurations • product integrity is maintained despite copious drainage* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • absorbs moderate to copious amounts of drainage* • autolytic debridement * • cavity dressings may be used to fill dead space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • frequency of dressing change depends on amount of exudate • does not provide pressure relief/pressure reduction* • reduces dressing bulk* • will not promote autolytic debridement if drainage is minimal* • pre-shaped cavity dressing must fit wound size and shape. Do not over pack* • do not cut pre-shaped cavity dressings* • cavity dressings may require secondary cover dressing • protect peri-wound skin with liquid skin barrier when drainage is excessive* • protects peri-wound skin from irritation and maceration*
	Contraindications	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dry wounds 	

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Dressing Category: Composite Dressings/ Odor Control - combine features of more than one dressing category to enhance the capabilities of each part Absorbency: Moderate-Maximum Wear Time: 1 to 7 days		
Description: Composite Dressings	Indications	Nursing Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> wicks excess moisture away from wound bed highly absorbent* multilayered island dressing* combination of several products* prevents lateral migration of drainage* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> copiously draining wounds* maintains autolytic debridement* reduces dressing bulk* improves integrity of macerated skin* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> frequency of dressing change depends on amount of exudate some dressings are non adherent to wound base* some products are self-adhesive to skin surface* some dressings may require a secondary cover dressing
	Contraindications	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> minimally exudating wounds 	
Odor Management	Indications	Nursing Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> charcoal dressings have a deodorizing effect some charcoal dressings contain silver to enhance antibacterial capacity* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> wounds with odor i.e. malignant cutaneous lesions, infected wounds promotes autolytic debridement* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> frequency of dressing change depends on amount of exudate ensure underlying infection has been evaluated and treated prior to use of charcoal dressings* some products become inactivated when wet* ensure dressing edges are sealed for maximum odor containment*
	Contraindications	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> minimally exudating wounds 	

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Dressing Category: Antimicrobial Dressings Absorbency: Variable Wear Time: 1 to 7 days		
Description	Indications	Nursing Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> contain antiseptics which are slowly released into the wound broad spectrum against bacteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> useful for reducing bacterial burden in wounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> frequency of dressing change depends on amount to exudate use of antimicrobial dressings should be re-evaluated routinely by the health care team use sterile water with silver dressings; some silver dressings are inactivated with the use of normal saline wound bed and peri-wound skin may become discolored with silver some may require a cover dressing
	Contraindications	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> clients with known hypersensitivities to any product components cadexomer iodine may be contraindicated in patient with thyroid disorders and impaired renal function 	

Dressing Category: Skin Barriers Absorbency: N/A Wear Time: N/A		
Description: Liquid	Indications	Nursing Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quick drying liquid that provides a thin layer of skin protection* • durability varies* • some contain alcohol* • available as moistened wipe, applicator or spray* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protects peri-wound skin from maceration, irritation or tape injury* • enhances adhesion of cover dressing* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • products containing alcohol can cause transient burning or stinging if skin is broken* • allow product to dry before cover dressing is applied* • do not apply on wound bed*
Creams, Pastes, Ointments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increases protection of peri-wound skin when drainage is moderate to copious* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • apply and remove paste according to product monograph • pastes do not require regular removal or reapplication. Only replenish when required* • some may interfere with seal of adhesive product*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • durability of products vary according to viscosity* • products containing zinc have some antimicrobial benefits* • creams provide hydration • some products contain calamine to help soothe itching* 		
Solid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wounds with copious drainage requiring peri-wound skin protection* • use under adhesive tapes to prevent skin stripping* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • replace every 7 days or prn * • cut barrier to fit close to wound margins*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • solid adhesive sheets of varying sizes/densities* 		

Appendix B
Advanced Wound Care Dressing List
According to Supply Agreement 2007

Advanced Wound Care Dressings

Category	Description	Vendor/Brand
Absorptive		
Acrylic dressing	Clear Acrylic dressing	3 M Canada Tegaderm Absorbent
Calcium Alginate, Hemostatic	Wound filler, exudate absorber	Convatec Kaltostat
Calcium Alginate, Hemostatic	Wound filler, exudate absorber,	Molnycke Health Care Melgisorb
Hydrofiber	Wound filler, exudate absorber, non adherent	Convatec Div. BMS Canada Aquacel
Antimicrobial		
	Absorbent, nanocrystalline silver impregnated calcium alginate	Smith & Nephew Inc. Acticoat Absorbent
	Absorbent, nanocrystalline silver impregnated calcium alginate	CAN-MED Deroyal Algidex AG
	Absorptive, ionic silver, slow release, hydrofiber, non adherent	Convatec Div BMS Canada Aquacel AG
	Burn dressing, nanocrystalline silver impregnated	Smith & nephew INC Acticoat Burn
	Nanocrystalline silver coated, absorbent, foam dressing	Smith & Nephew INC Acticoat Moisture Control
	Dressing Gel <i>antimicrobial</i> barrier	Medline Industries INC Silvasorb
	2- layered nanocrystalline silver impregnated dressing	Smith & Nephew INC Acticoat 7
Combination		
	Absorbent cover dressing with super-absorbent pad and hydrocolloid adhesive	Convatec Div BMS Canada Combiderm ACD
Acrylic Dressing	Clear acrylic dressing	3M Canada Inc Tegaderm Absorbent
Hydropolymer foam dressing	Absorbent cover, thin flexible, waterproof foam	Johnson & Johnson Inc Tielle
Compression		
	High compression extensible bandage with absorbent padding	Convatec Div BMS Canada Surepress
	2-layer sustained compression bandage with vari- stretch technology, reusable, light weight,	Smith & Nephew Inc Proguide

	durable multilayer compression	
	4-layer sustained compression bandage	Smith & Nephew Inc Profore
	3-layer sustained compression bandage system	Smith & Nephew Inc Profore Lite
Foam		
	Foam border absorbent, self adhesive non-adherent atraumatic, repeated application, silicone based adhesive	Molnlycke Health Care Mepilex Border
	Highly absorbent foam dressing for deep wounds – cavity filler	Smith& Nephew Inc Allevyn Cavity
	Highly absorbent and nonadherent foams anatomically shaped for heels or similar anatomical areas	Smith& Nephew Inc Allevyn Heel
	Highly absorbent nonadhesive foam	Smith& Nephew Inc Allevyn Nonadhesive
	Highly absorbent adhesive foam anatomically shaped for the sacrum	Smith& Nephew Inc Allevyn Sacrum
	Highly absorbent adhesive foam	Smith& Nephew Inc Allevyn Adhesive
	Foam hydrophilic, sterile with adhesive border, absorptive, adherent, waterproof and bacteria proof	3M Canada 3M Tegaderm Foam Adhesive
	Hydropolymer foam dressing	Johnson & Johnson Inc Tielle
	Foam , sterile, non-adherent, conformable, absorptive	Convatec DIV BMS Canada Lyof foam Extra
	Absorbent adhesive thin foam dressing, bacteria proof/waterproof	Smith &Nephew Inc Allevyn Thin
Hydrocolloid		
	Adhesive dressing impermeable to liquids, bacteria & Viruses	3M Canada Inc Tegasorb Convatec Div BMS Canada Duoderm
	Adhesive dressing anatomically shaped for the sacrum	3M Canada Tegasorb Sacral
	Adhesive thin dressing impermeable to liquids, bacteria and viruses	3M Canada 3M Tegaderm Hydrocolloid Thin Convatec DIV BMS Canada Duoderm Extra Thin

Hydrogel/filler		
	Carboxymethylcellulose structured wound filler	Smith&Nephew Inc Intrasite Gel
	Gel wound filler exudate absorber with 9 % saline	Molnlycke Health Care Norml gel
	Gel wound filler exudate absorber with 20 % saline	Molnlycke Health Care Hypergel
Hydropolymer		
	Adhesive, hydropolymer borderless	Johnson & Johnson Inc Tielle Plus
Odor Control		
	Non adhesive multi-layered odor control dressing with alginate/hydrofibres layer	Convatec Div BMS Canada Carboflex
	Wound contact layer antimicrobial dressing with activated charcoal cloth for odor management	Johnson & Johnson Inc Actisorb Silver
Other		
	Biological dressing with silver containing oxidized regenerated cellulose and collagen	Johnson & Johnson Inc Prisma
	Non-adherent silicone gel mesh dressing	Molnlycke Health Care Mepitel
	Absorbent non woven gauze dressing impregnated with 15% crystalline sodium chloride	Molnlycke Health Care Mesalt
	Biological dressing with 45% Oxidized Regenerated Cellulose and 55% Collagen	Johnson & Johnson Inc Promogran
	Adhesive silicone membrane and gel combination sheet for scar reduction	Smith & Nephew Inc Cica care
	Biological gel dressing Becaplermin 0.01%	Johnson & Johnson Inc Regranex
	Topical antibacterial - Cadexomer Iodine ointment or paste dressing	Smith & Nephew Inc Iodosorb

January 2008