

# Wound management dressing guide

Type of tissue in the wound	Therapeutic goal	Role of dressing	Treatment options		
			Wound bed preparation	Primary dressing	Secondary dressing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Necrotic, black, dry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove devitalized tissue</li> <li>Do not attempt debridement if vascular insufficiency suspected</li> <li>Keep dry and refer for vascular assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hydration of wound bed</li> <li>Promote autolytic debridement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surgical or mechanical debridement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hydrogel</li> <li>Honey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Polyurethane film dressing</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sloughy, yellow, brown, black or grey</li> <li>Dry to low exudate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove slough</li> <li>Provide clean wound bed for granulation tissue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rehydrate wound bed</li> <li>Control moisture balance</li> <li>Promote autolytic debridement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surgical or mechanical debridement if appropriate</li> <li>Wound cleansing (consider antiseptic wound cleansing solution)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hydrogel</li> <li>Honey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Polyurethane film dressing</li> <li>Low adherent (silicone) dressing</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sloughy, yellow, brown, black or grey</li> <li>Moderate to high exudate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove slough</li> <li>Provide clean wound bed for granulation tissue</li> <li>Exudate management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Absorb excess fluid</li> <li>Protect periwound skin to prevent maceration</li> <li>Promote autolytic debridement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surgical or mechanical debridement if appropriate</li> <li>Wound cleansing (consider antiseptic wound cleansing solution)</li> <li>Consider barrier products</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Absorbent dressing (algininate/CMC/foam)</li> <li>For deep wounds, use cavity strips, rope or ribbon versions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retention bandage or polyurethane film dressing</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Granulating, clean, red</li> <li>Dry to low exudate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote granulation</li> <li>Provide healthy wound bed for epithelialization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain moisture balance</li> <li>Protect new tissue growth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wound cleansing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hydrogel</li> <li>Low adherent (silicone) dressing</li> <li>For deep wounds use cavity strips, rope or ribbon versions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pad and/or retention bandage</li> <li>Avoid bandages that may cause occlusion and maceration</li> <li>Tapes should be used with caution due to allergy potential and secondary complications</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Granulating, clean, red</li> <li>Moderate to high exudate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exudate management</li> <li>Provide healthy wound bed for epithelialization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain moisture balance</li> <li>Protect new tissue growth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wound cleansing</li> <li>Consider barrier products</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Absorbent dressing (algininate/CMC/foam)</li> <li>Low adherent (silicone) dressing</li> <li>For deep wounds, use cavity strips, rope or ribbon versions</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Epithelializing, red, pink</li> <li>No to low exudate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote epithelialization and wound maturation (contraction)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect new tissue growth</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hydrocolloid (thin)</li> <li>Polyurethane film dressing</li> <li>Low adherent (silicone) dressing</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infected</li> <li>Low to high exudate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce bacterial load</li> <li>Exudate management</li> <li>Odor control</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Antimicrobial action</li> <li>Moist wound healing</li> <li>Odor absorption</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wound cleansing (consider antiseptic wound cleansing solution)</li> <li>Consider barrier products</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Antimicrobial dressing</li> </ul>	

The purpose of this table is to provide guidance about appropriate dressings and should be used in conjunction with clinical judgement and local protocols. Where wounds contain mixed tissue types, it is important to consider the predominant factors affecting healing and address accordingly. Where infection is suspected, it is important to regularly inspect the wound and to change the dressing frequently. Wound dressings should be used in combination with appropriate wound bed preparation, systemic antibiotic therapy, pressure offloading, and diabetic control.

CMC: carboxymethyl cellulose.

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