

Apply a Dressing to a Minor Skin Tear

Skill	Performed Correctly	N/A
Hand hygiene, explain procedure to patient, and shut resident door and pull curtain to maintain privacy.		
Gather the equipment needed: sanitizer for environmental surfaces, dressings, two to three sets of disposable gloves, tape, scissors, trash bags, and the supplies needed for cleaning the skin around the wound.		
Assist the resident to a position to expose the old dressing while maintaining the resident's privacy.		
Remove the old dressing and place in a trash bag. Try to remove the dressing away from the resident's face for courtesy and pull the tape toward the wound to prevent pulling on the wound while removing the adhesive tape.		
Inspect the wound. Clean and dry the skin around the wound according to instructions or facility policy.		
Place the used cleaning items in the trash bag after use.		
Remove the dirty gloves and discard in a trash bag.		
Apply clean gloves.		
Place the clean dressing on the skin, being careful not to touch the surface of the dressing that will come in contact with the resident's skin.		
Tape the dressing in place.		
Remove gloves and discard in a trash bag.		
Close the trash bag(s) containing the soiled dressings to be discarded in a waste container outside the resident's room.		
Discard the trash bag(s) containing the soiled dressings into a waste container outside the resident's room. As determined by facility policy, a biohazard bag/container may be used for soiled dressing containment. A biohazard bag/container should be utilized if any type of bodily fluid is present.		
Cover resident, ensure personal items and call light are within reach, and lower bed if necessary. Hand hygiene, ask if resident if anything else is needed.		
Ask resident about presence of pain and inform nurse if pain is reported.		

Learner Signature: _____

Date: _____

Observer Signature: _____

Date: _____

Topics for Discussion

- The QMA must report to the licensed nurse any change in appearance or drainage of the skin tear that might indicate a different type of dressing is warranted.
- A QMA cannot assess but can report/document what they hear, see, smell, or touch.

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