



# South West Regional Wound Care Program's Dressing Selection and Cleansing Enabler – HEALABLE WOUNDS



| Wound Appearance   |   |    |   |   |    |    |                       |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Description</b>   | Eschar   | Primarily Slough or Mixed Granulating/Slough Wound Tissue  | Fibrin   | Granulating ****   | Epithelializing ****  | Open Surgical Incision (small dehiscence along otherwise intact incision)   | Closed Wounds and/or Skin at Risk  |
| <b>Exudate Level</b>   | None → Moderate  | Small → Large  | Small → Large  | Small → Moderate   | Small → Moderate  | Small → Moderate  | None   |
| <b>Depth</b>   | Unknown  | Full → Partial Thickness   | Full → Partial Thickness   | Full Thickness → Superficial   | Superficial   | Partial Thickness → Superficial   | Closed   |
| <b>Treatment Objective</b>   | Debride (unless the eschar is stable and on a heel . If stable eschar is on a heel use the maintenance enabler)*   | Cleanse, protect, moist wound healing, fill dead space, debride  | Cleanse, protect, moist wound healing, fill dead space, debride  | Cleanse, protect, moist wound healing, fill dead space   | Cleanse, protect, moist wound healing   | Cleanse, protect, moist wound healing, fill dead space  | Protect  |
| <b>Cleansing (min. 100 mL of room/body temperature solution) **</b>  | 7-15 PSI irrigation NS or sterile water or commercial wound cleanser   | 7-15 PSI irrigation NS or sterile water or commercial wound cleanser   | 7-15 PSI irrigation NS or sterile water or commercial wound cleanser   | POUR NS or sterile water solution  | POUR NS or sterile water solution   | POUR NS or sterile water solution   | Tap water  |
| <b>Suggested Dressing Products and Rate Changes***</b>   | <p>Have ET/WCS cross-hatch hard eschar first!</p> <p>Hypertonic dressing [1+] (daily)<br/>Or<br/>Hydrogel [0] (max 3 days)<br/>Or<br/>Hypertonic dressing [1+] buttered with a Hydrogel [0] (daily)<br/>Or<br/>Hypertonic dressing [1+] buttered with a Hydrogel [0] (daily)</p> <p><b>Cover Choices:</b><br/>Hydrocolloid [1-2+] +/- Film [1+] (max 7 days)<br/>Or<br/>Foam [1-3+] +/- Film [1+] (max 7 days)<br/>Or<br/>Composite [2-3+] +/- Film [1+] (max 7 days)<br/>Or<br/>Gauze sealed by Film [1+] (for daily changes <u>ONLY</u>)</p> | <p>Hypertonic dressing [1+] (daily)<br/>Or<br/>Hydrogel [0] (max 3 days)<br/>Or<br/>Hypertonic dressing [1+] buttered with a Hydrogel [0] (daily)<br/>Or<br/>Cadexomer Iodine [1+] buttered on Calcium Alginate [2+] or Hydrophilic Fiber [2+] (max 3 days)</p> <p><b>Cover Choices:</b><br/>Hydrocolloid [1-2+] +/- Film [1+] (max 7 days)<br/>Or<br/>Foam [1-3+] (max 7 days)<br/>Or<br/>Composite [2-3+] (max 7 days)<br/>Or<br/>Gauze +/- Film seal [1+] (for daily changes <u>ONLY</u>)</p> | <p>Hypertonic dressing [1+] (daily)<br/>Or<br/>Hydrogel [0] (max 3 days)<br/>Or<br/>Hypertonic dressing [1+] buttered with a Hydrogel [0] (daily)<br/>Or<br/>Cadexomer Iodine [1+] buttered on Calcium Alginate [2+] or Hydrophilic Fiber [2+] (max 3 days)</p> <p><b>Cover Choices:</b><br/>Hydrocolloid [1-2+] +/- Film [1+] (max 7 days)<br/>Or<br/>Foam [1-3+] (max 7 days)<br/>Or<br/>Composite [2-3+] (max 7 days)<br/>Or<br/>Gauze +/- Film seal [1+] (for daily changes <u>ONLY</u>)</p> | <p>Hydrogel [0] (max 3 days)<br/>Or<br/>Calcium Alginate [2+] (max 7 days)<br/>Or<br/>Hydrophilic Fiber [2+] (max 7 days)</p> <p><b>Cover Choices:</b><br/>Hydrocolloid [1-2+] +/- Film [1+] (max 7 days – do not use on plantar foot wounds)<br/>Or<br/>Clear Acrylic [2+] (max 21 days)<br/>Or<br/>Foam [1-3+] (max 7 days)<br/>Or<br/>Composite [2-3+] (max 7 days)</p> | <p>Hydrogel [0] (max 3 days) +/- Non-Adherent Synthetic [0] (max 7-14 days)<br/>Or<br/>Calcium Alginate [2+] +/- Non-Adherent Synthetic [0] (max 7 days)<br/>Or<br/>Hydrophilic Fiber [2+] +/- Non-Adherent Synthetic [0] (max 7 days)</p> <p><b>Cover Choices:</b><br/>Hydrocolloid [1-2+] +/- Film [1+] (max 7 days – do not use on plantar foot wounds)<br/>Or<br/>Clear Acrylic [2+] (max 21 days)<br/>Or<br/>Foam [1-3+] (max 7 days)<br/>Or<br/>Composite [2-3+] (max 7 days)</p> | <p>Hydrogel [0] (max 3 days) +/- Non-Adherent Synthetic [0] (max 7-14 days)<br/>Or<br/>Calcium Alginate [2+] +/- Non-Adherent Synthetic [0] (max 7 days)<br/>Or<br/>Hydrophilic Fiber [2+] +/- Non-Adherent Synthetic [0] (max 7 days)</p> <p><b>Cover Choices:</b><br/>Hydrocolloid [1-2+] +/- Film [1+] (max 7 days)<br/>Or<br/>Clear Acrylic [2+] (max 21 days)<br/>Or<br/>Foam [1-3+] (max 7 days)<br/>Or<br/>Composite [2-3+] (max 7 days)</p> | <p>Film [1+]<br/>Or<br/>Hydrocolloid [1-2+] (max 7 days)<br/>Or<br/>Clear Acrylic [2+] (max 21 days)</p> |
| <p>Exudate capacity of dressings:<br/>[0] = none<br/>[1+] = small<br/>[2+] = moderate<br/>[3+] = large</p> <p>Dressing wear times are found in brackets ( )</p> <p>More resources at:<br/><a href="http://www.swrwoundcareprogram.ca">www.swrwoundcareprogram.ca</a></p> | <p><b>If the wound is superficial you may consider having your secondary dressing be your primary contact layer as well.</b></p>   |  |  |  |   |   |  |

\* Only debride healable wounds.

\*\* If antimicrobial effect is required, consider topical antiseptic cleansers, i.e. chlorhexidine 2% or 4% (for pseudomonas – must soak x 5 min. minimum), povidone-iodine, or ¼ strength acetic acid (for pseudomonas only – must soak x 5 min. minimum).

\*\*\* If antimicrobial effect is required, consider topical antimicrobial dressings, i.e. silver compounds, iodine compounds, chlorhexidine derivatives, honey, or gentian violet and methylene blue.

\*\*\*\* For stalled granulating or epithelializing wounds consider cadexomer iodine or povidone iodine to initiate acute inflammation or calcium alginate or protease inhibitor dressings to address chronic inflammation.

ALSO, may consider pain controlling dressings for painful exuding wounds, biologic dressings for stalled granulating +/- epithelializing wounds in the absence of infection or large drainage, charcoal dressings for odor control (once the cause of the odor has been investigated and treated if able, and adjunctive therapies as indicated).

Disclaimer: The information herein is for general informational purposes only and is not intended, nor should it be considered, as a substitute for professional medical advice. Always seek the advice of the attending physician or other qualified healthcare provider regarding a medical condition or treatment. Dressing selection cannot take place in isolation – a holistic patient assessment is MANDATORY.