

# Wound Cleansing Algorithm

## Wound Assessment

Clean Epithelializing Wound	Clean Granulating Wound, Decreasing in Surface Area 20-30% in 3-4 Weeks*	Clean Granulating Wound <u>NOT</u> Decreasing in Size 20-30% in 3-4	Necrotic Healable Wound (Debridement is Appropriate)	Necrotic Non-Healable Wound (Debridement is NOT Appropriate)	Malignant Wounds	Wound with Debris or Contamination/ Superficial & Partial Thickness Burn	Tunneling or Undermined Wound	* Localized And/Or Spreading Infection	Maintenance Wounds
Irrigate with $\leq 7$ PSI pressure, or pour solution over the wound bed.	Irrigate with $\leq 7$ PSI pressure, or pour solution over the wound bed.	Irrigate with 7-15 PSI pressure.	Irrigate with 7-15 PSI pressure.	Do not irrigate or cleanse the wound itself (the intent is to allow the necrotic tissue to dry out and stabilize).	Irrigate with 7-15 PSI pressure, if tolerated. Reduce pressure as needed to minimize pain and damage to friable tumor tissue.	Irrigate with 7-15 PSI pressure.	Irrigate into tunneled / undermined area using a 5Fr catheter or "soft-cath" with a 30cc syringe.	Irrigate with 7-15 PSI pressure.	Cleansing will be dependent on characteristics of wound bed and goal of treatment.  If goal is to prevent wound from deteriorating, cleanse as per a Necrotic Non-Healable Wound.
Use at least 100cc's of solution, at room or body temperature.	Use at least 100cc's of solution, at room or body temperature.	Use at least 150cc's of solution, at room or body temperature.	Use at least 150cc's of solution, at room or body temperature.		Use at least 150cc's of solution, at room or body temperature.	Use at least 150cc's of solution, at room or body temperature.	Use at least 150cc's of solution, at room or body temperature. Irrigate until returns are clear.	Use at least 150cc's of antimicrobial solution, at room or body temperature.	
Cleanse the periwound skin of debris, exudates.	Cleanse the periwound skin of debris, exudates.	Cleanse the periwound skin of debris, exudates.	Cleanse the periwound skin of debris, exudates.		Cleanse the periwound skin of debris, exudates.	Cleanse the periwound skin of debris, exudates.	Cleanse the periwound skin of debris, exudates.	Cleanse the periwound skin of debris, exudates.	
No antimicrobial solutions.	No antimicrobial solutions.	*Granulating wounds not decreasing in size may have a localized infection.		Topical application of povidone-iodine solution or Chlorhexidine to the wound surface is appropriate, i.e. paint with Povidone.	Foul odor indicates presence of anaerobes - use an antimicrobial solution, and/or topical Metronidazole.	May cleanse small burns with lukewarm tap water and mild soap.	Do not force irrigation.  Gently palpate over tunneled areas to express any irrigation solution that is retained.	<b>Two week challenge:</b> May use a 10 – 14 day cleansing regime with an antimicrobial solution to address bacterial burden.	

**NOTE:** Normal saline and sterile water do NOT contain preservatives and must be discarded 48 hours after opening