**Purpose**

Non-sterile dressings protect open wounds from contamination and absorb drainage.

**Policy**

1. Designated staff member will use non-sterile dressing technique for all dressing changes unless otherwise indicated by physician or manufacturer guidelines.
   1. Clean aseptic technique should be used.
   2. In the event of multiple wounds, each wound is considered a separate treatment.

**Procedure**

1. Bring equipment to patient’s room. Knock on door.
2. Provide privacy to patient, explain procedure.
3. Prepare a clean, dry work area at bedside.
4. Place trash bag at end of bed or within easy reach of working area.
5. Wash hands apply gloves.
6. Prepare/open dressing items on table or another clean surface. If dressings need to be cut to size, use clean scissors. Open packages and cut tape. Place initials and date on a piece of tape or on the dressing.
7. Reposition patient to expose area to be dressed. Avoid exposing the patient unnecessarily.
8. Remove soiled dressing, place it in trash bag. Note date on old bandage prior to removal.
9. Remove gloves, wash hands, apply new gloves.
10. Continually monitor patient throughout procedure for response to interventions and episodes of pain.
11. Clean wound with normal saline, soap and water or prescribed cleanser.
12. Remove gloves, wash hands, apply new gloves.
13. Apply prescribed topical agent to wound if ordered.
14. Apply wound dressing. Wound dressing should cover the entire wound.
15. Tape the dressing in place as indicated.
16. Reposition patient. Place call light within reach.
17. Discard gloves and all used supplies in trash bag. Remove equipment
18. Wash hands.