


**Work Health Safety: Safe Work Practice: Personal & Medical**

**Apply dressing**

 <b>Risks</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>	<b>Risk Controls</b>
Infection of people from clients blood and other fluids	Likelihood: B Consequence: 3 Rating = HIGH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wear gloves <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provide prompt first aid if required
Infection of client from open wound	Likelihood: B Consequence: 3 Rating = HIGH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff only complete this procedure if a Registered Nurse is unavailable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Registered Nurse to review all simple wounds at least every week or if the exudates / pain / redness continued <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> When cleaning wound area do not wipe through the wound as this will destroy good cells responsible for wound repair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ensure wound is covered
Client/staff emotional distress due to fear of serious health problems or lack of confidence in first aid response	Likelihood: C Consequence: 4 Rating = MODERATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff explaining each step to client beforehand and ensure client is ready <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff providing necessary reassurance to client and Coordinator supporting staff.

**Equipment required:.**

<i>Mercy Services equipment</i>	<i>Others equipment</i>
<p>Items required to apply a dressing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aqium</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sterile salt water (saline) (<i>check it's date has not expired</i>)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solosite gel</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Atraumann dressing</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> melolin</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> hypafix tape (not micropore tape as it may damage skin)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> blue sheet for these products</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 swabs of gauze</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> gauze square</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> plastic bag for rubbish</li> </ul> <p>Worker to wear <u>footwear</u> that is fully enclosed, slip resistant sole, water repellent/resistant and provides adequate support.</p> <p><b>Personal Protective Equipment required:</b> gloves</p>	

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Worker behaviour</b>	<b>Client/other's behaviour</b>
1. Prepare to apply dressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Wash your hands using aquim hand wash or antibacterial hand wash pump soap wash and clean hand towel in client's home</li> <li>b) Reads Care Plan / instructions re. same on pink chart in home. If unsure of procedure speak with Registered Nurse</li> <li>c) Gather materials</li> <li>d) Put blue sheet to put under client's leg or arm to prevent any exudates from the wound leaking onto the ground or other surfaces.</li> <li>e) Open all products ready for use including a plastic bag for rubbish.</li> <li>f) Open your first aid pack.</li> <li>g) Wash your hands</li> <li>h) Don gloves</li> <li>i) Reassure the client</li> </ul>	Client to sit still, and engage in distracting conversation with worker and not look at the wound as this may distress her/him
2. Clean wound area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Flush the wound with the sterile salt water (<i>check it's date has not expired</i>)</li> <li>b) Wipe around the edges of the wound with gauze. Gently taking care not wipe across the wound as this may cause further damage to the skin tissue.</li> <li>c) Cleanse wound area with sterile saline or water -side , side around with one swab of gauze,</li> <li>d) Discard first swab</li> <li>e) Use, another piece of sterile gauze to wipe exudates from around wound</li> </ul>	Client to sit still, and engage in distracting conversation with worker and not look at the wound as this may distress her/him
3. Cover the wound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Apply the solosite gel, non touch with gauze square</li> <li>b) Apply atraumann carefully to cover the wound.</li> <li>c) Apply the melolin to the wound with the shiny side facing down</li> <li>d) Apply hypafix on top of melolin</li> </ul>	<p>Client to sit still, and engage in distracting conversation with worker and not look at the wound as this may distress her/him</p> <p>Client to tell worker if crepe bandage feels to tight</p>
4. Follow-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Ensure all rubbish is in plastic bag</li> <li>b) Remove gloves and place in plastic bag</li> <li>c) Tie plastic bag and place in bin</li> <li>d) Record task in client home file</li> <li>e) If necessary document the incident and report it to your Coordinator immediately</li> </ul>	Client to tell worker if further bleeding or pain is felt

**As at 25/08/16 this Safe Work Practice is authorised for use in:**

<b>Service</b>	<b>Position</b>
Home Care Package	Community Care Assistant
Home Support Program/NDIS	Community Care Assistant
Residential Aged Care	Assistant in Nursing

**Date for review of safe work practice:** August 2019 (*or if injury or changes require*)

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## COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT

### Apply dressing

Employee \_\_\_\_\_

Assessor \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Desired Outcome:**

Apply dressing when Registered Nurse is unavailable

**Knowledge required:**

Staff must have a first aid certificate

Performance Criteria	Competence demonstrated	Comment
<b>Prepare to apply dressing</b>		
a. Washes hands using aquim hand wash or with antibacterial hand wash pump soap wash and clean hand towel in client's home		
b. Reads Care Plan / instructions re. same on pink chart in home. If unsure of procedure speaks with MCS Registered Nurse		
c. Gathers materials		
d. Puts blue sheet to put under client's leg or arm		
e. Opens all products ready for use including a plastic bag for rubbish.		
f. Opens first aid pack.		
g. Washes hands		
h. Dons gloves		
i. Reassures the client		
<b>Clean wound area</b>		
a. Flushes the wound with the sterile salt water		
b. Wipes around the edges of the wound with gauze. Gently takes care not wipe across the wound		
c. Cleanses wound area with sterile saline or water -side , side around with one swab of gauze,		
d. Discards first swab		
e. Uses, another piece of sterile gauze to wipe exudates from around wound		
<b>Treat wound</b>		
a. Applies the solosite gel, non touch with gauze square		
b. Applies atraumann carefully - covering the wound.		
c. Applies the melolin to the wound with the shiny side facing down		

d. Applies hypafix on top of melolin		
<b>Follow-up</b>		
a. Ensures all rubbish is in plastic bag		
b. Removes gloves and places in plastic bag		
c. Ties plastic bag and places in bin		
d. Records task in client home file		
e. If necessary documents any incident and reports it to the Coordinator immediately		

Is the worker assessed as being competent?     YES     NO

Any required follow up action/training: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of employee..... Date.....

Signature of assessor ..... Date.....