

DRESSING CHANGE: INFECTED WOUND

Dry sterile gauze dressings (bandages) are used to protect clean wounds and to absorb drainage from infected wounds. **Proper handwashing must be done** to prevent the wound from developing another type of infection and to prevent the person who changes the dressing from becoming infected. All items used to care for the wound must be kept **very clean**. If the dressing change will be uncomfortable for your child, the doctor may suggest pain medicine to be given about half an hour before the dressing change.

The supplies you need will vary, depending on the type of wound. The nurse will check below the supplies you'll need.

A young child can better understand what you are going to do if you let him play "changing the dressing" on a doll before you change his dressing (Picture 1).

DOCTOR'S ORDER

- Change the dressing and clean the wound with _____ solution _____ times a day.
- Put (medicine) _____ on the wound _____ times a day.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

YOU WILL NEED

- Scissors
- Kerlex® (roller bandage), size _____
- Sterile gauze sponges, size _____
- Sterile cotton swabs
- Sterile gauze pads
- Paper bag
- Small glass or sterile plastic container
- Adhesive tape, size _____
- Medicine _____
- Cleansing solution _____
- Sterile gloves



Picture 1 Let your child play "changing the dressing."

HOW TO CHANGE THE DRESSING

If your child is old enough, explain what you're going to do.

1. Wash your hands well (Picture 2).
2. Gently but firmly remove the soiled dressing. If the dressing sticks to the wound, pour **cool tap water** from a clean glass over the dressing to moisten it. Throw away the soiled dressing in a paper bag.
3. Look at the wound to see if it's healing (see *When to Call the Doctor* below).
4. Wash your hands again.
5. Pour a small amount of _____ cleansing solution into the glass container (Picture 3).
6. Clean the inside of the wound with sterile cotton swabs or gauze sponges moistened with cleansing solution. (Don't touch the side or end of the swab that will touch the wound.)
7. Open the sterile supplies that you'll need and put on sterile gloves.
8. Clean around the wound with sterile cotton swabs or gauze moistened with cleansing solution (Picture 4). Pat off excess cleansing solution with sterile gauze or a cotton swab. Throw away the swabs or gauze after each use.
9. Apply medicine to the wound with cotton swabs if ordered by the doctor.
10. Open the sterile supplies you'll need. Cover the wound with gauze squares and if needed, a gauze pad (Picture 5). Tape the gauze in place securely.
11. **Store all supplies out of the reach of children.**
12. Place used cotton swabs and gauze in a paper bag and throw away in the trash. Flush any used cleansing solution in the toilet.
13. Wash your hands. Then comfort your child.

WHEN TO CALL THE DOCTOR

Call your child's doctor if you don't think the wound is healing. If the wound isn't healing properly, you'll see one or more of these signs:

- Change in drainage (color, odor, or amount)
- Swelling or redness around the wound.
- Child has fever above 101°F by mouth or 102°F by rectum.

If you have any questions, please ask your doctor or nurse or call _____.



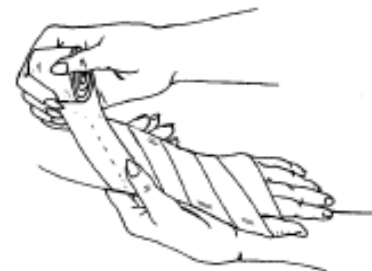
Picture 2 Wash your hands.



Picture 3 Pour the solution into a sterile glass or plastic container.



Picture 4 Clean the wound.



Picture 5 Put on a gauze square. Cover with a gauze pad if needed. Tape in place securely.