

SURGICAL DRESSINGS

Reference the [Look-Up Tool](#) to determine if a code requires a Service Authorization

DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT MANUAL

COVERAGE AND LIMITATION CRITERIA AND POLICIES

EFFECTIVE: March 2007

REVISED: December 2025

SURGICAL DRESSINGS

Indications and limitations of coverage and medical appropriateness:

Coverage allowed if the following conditions are present:

- Medically necessary and ordered by a licensed provider, **and**
- Treatment of wounds post-surgery, **or**
- Debridement of a wound.

If the dressing has adhesive borders, no additional tape is allowed.

Dressing size must be based on, and appropriate to, the size of the wound.

Use of more than one type of wound filler or more than one type of wound cover in a single wound is rarely medically necessary, and the reasons must be well documented.

Suppliers are expected to have a mechanism for determining the quantity of dressings the member is actually using and to adjust their provision of dressings accordingly.

No more than one month's supply should be provided at a time.

The physician's order must specify the type of dressing, the size of the dressing, the number/amount to be used at one time, the frequency of dressing change, and the expected duration of need. A new order will be needed if the type/quantity of dressing changes.

Dressings:

Alginate/Fiber Dressings: **(A6196, A6197, A6199)**

- Allow one dressing per day.
- Allowed with highly exudative full-thickness wounds.

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Composite Dressings: **(A6203, A6204)**

- Allow up to three dressings per week.
- Wound cover-one per dressing change.

Contact Layer: **(A6207)**

- Allow one dressing per week.

Foam dressings: **(A6209 - A6214)**

- Allowed with full-thickness wounds with moderate to heavy exudates.
- Allow up to three dressings per week.
- Allow filler once per day.

Gauze, Non-Impregnated: **(A6216, A6219, A6220, A6222, A6223, A6224, A6402, A6403)**

- Allow up to three times per day for a dressing without a border and once per day for a dressing with a border.

Gauze, impregnated with other than water, normal saline, hydro gel, or zinc paste: **(A6222, A6223, A6224, A6266)**

- Allow up to once per day.

Hydrocolloid dressing: **(A6234, A6235, A6236, A6237, A6238, A6240, A6241)**

- Allowed for light to moderate exudates.
- Allow up to three times per week.

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Hydrogel Dressing: **(A6231, A6232, A6233, A6242, A6243, A6244, A6245, A6246, A6247, A6248)**

- Allowed with a full-thickness wound with minimal or no exudates.
- Wound covers without borders-allow once per day.
- Wound covers with borders-allow up to three times per week.

Specialty Absorptive Dressing: **(A6251, A6252, A6253, A6254, A6255)**

- Allowed with a moderate or highly exudative wound.
- Without borders-allow once daily.
- With borders, allow three times per week.

Transparent Film: **(A6257, A6258, A6259)**

- Allowed on open partial thickness wounds with minimal exudates or closed wounds.
- Allow up to three times per week.

Tape: **(A4450, A4452)**

- Allow only to hold on a wound cover, elastic roll gauze, or non-elastic roll gauze.

Light, Moderate/High compression bandage, Self-adherent bandage, Conforming and Padding Bandage:

- Allowed to hold wound cover dressings in place.
- Allow no more than one per week unless used with a multi-layer compression bandage system.
- Allowed when they are part of a multi-layer compression bandage system used in the treatment of a venous stasis ulcer.



Health & Human Services

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Documentation Requirements:

- A prescription from a prescribing physician/practitioner.
- Medical documentation supporting the need.
- Physician/practitioner exam within 90 days of the service authorization start date.

Non-covered:

- All bandages when used for strains, sprains, edema, or situations other than as a dressing for a wound are non-covered.
- Silicone gel sheets: **(A6025)**
- Gauze, impregnated, water or normal saline: **(A6228-A6230)**
- Alginate/Fiber Dressings **(A6196-A6199)** for dry wounds or wounds with Escher.
- Tape if ordered with border dressings.

Date Revised	Revisions
July 2017	Reviewed and reformatted.
January 3, 2020	Reviewed and updated with department logo.
December 22, 2022	Reformatted and updated with a new logo.
December 12, 2023	Reviewed and reformatted.
December 18, 2025	Reviewed and reformatted. Replaced “Service Authorization” and “CMN” verbiage with “Reference the Look-Up Tool to determine if a code requires a Service Authorization”.