

Staff Huddle: Hand Hygiene in Wound Care. - Week #1

What is the risk? Common reservoirs for germs to live are the skin and on dry surfaces. Germs can spread through unclean hands. Hand hygiene can reduce the spread of germs.

- Staff should always clean their hands using proper hand hygiene before and after wound care.
- When going from dirty to clean surfaces or supplies, remove gloves every time.
- Staff should clean hands before dispensing bulk lotions to medication cups for use.
- Use of hand sanitizer should be available before entering room, exiting room, near point of care wound supplies, patient care activities, and environmental cleaning.



Staff Huddle: Personal Protective Equipment- Week #2

- Personal protective equipment that can be used during dressing change for protection of self and client are:
 - Gloves
 - Gown
 - Eye protection
 - Well-fitting surgical mask.
- Wear a mask with eye protection if there is any chance of splattering (e.g., wounds with drainage, especially during debridement and irrigation).
- Wear a new disposable gown to prevent contact with the client or the client's bed for each dressing change.
- Covering wounds, also called "source control," should be used to reduce risk and stop the spread of germs.



Staff Huddle: Single Use Items- Week #3

- Dedicate lotions or massage creams to one client. Do not double dip into bulk lotions or creams on multiple clients.
- Dressings should be kept at client bedside. If dressings are not used and client is discharged, dispose of those dressings.
- Clean and disinfect all shared equipment prior to use with another client (e.g., scissors, tweezers).

- Some of these items may need high level disinfection, check with facility policy.
- If compression fabric wraps are used, a new wrap should be used with each dressing change. If unable to use a new wrap, launder them properly to kill bacteria.



Staff Huddle: Cleaning and Disinfecting for Wound care - Week #4

- Disinfect the surface where wound care supplies will be placed prior to setting supplies in client rooms.
- Cleaning equipment such as bed side tables, end tables, and therapy tables should be done after each wound dressing change.
- Disinfect with an EPA listed solution and follow the label instructions including observing the contact time of disinfectant used. This is essential for killing of germs.
- Reusable medical equipment (i.e. scissors and tweezers) need to be cleaned and properly disinfected after wound care.

