
Overview

This standard covers removing wound drains as and when directed. This activity must be undertaken using an aseptic technique and following local guidelines and procedures. The standard is applicable in a variety of care settings including hospitals, care homes, the individuals own home or other community settings such as GP surgeries.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 apply standard precautions for infection prevention and control and take other appropriate health and safety measures
- P2 check the individual's identity and confirm the planned activity
- P3 give the individual relevant information, support and reassurance in a manner which is sensitive to their needs and concerns and gain valid consent to carry out removal of wound drains
- P4 observe and measure the individual's wound drainage prior to removal accurately using the correct technique and equipment at specified time(s) according to the plan of care, or as directed by the registered practitioner
- P5 record measurements correctly in the required format
- P6 report any contra-indications for removal promptly to the appropriate member of the care team
- P7 confirm all necessary equipment and materials are:
 - P7.1 appropriate for the activity
 - P7.2 fit for purpose
- P8 carry out preparation of the drainage system prior to removal following organisational policies and procedures and manufacturer's guidance specific to the drain
- P9 carry out wound drain removal:
 - P9.1 causing the individual minimal distress, discomfort or pain
 - P9.2 at an appropriate time according to the individual's plan of care
 - P9.3 following the agreed procedure
 - P9.4 using the correct technique
- P10 observe and support individual throughout the activity
- P11 stop the activity, reassure the individual and seek advice without delay if you have any problems in removing the wound drain
- P12 recognise and report any condition or behaviour which may signify adverse reactions to the activity and take the appropriate action
- P13 observe the drainage site for signs of leakage and apply an appropriate dressing
- P14 report and record the outcomes of the activity correctly using the method agreed in your care setting

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the current European and National legislation, national guidelines, organisational policies and protocols in accordance with Clinical/Corporate Governance which affect your work practice in relation to removing wound drains
- K2 your responsibilities and accountability in relation to the current European and National legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols and Clinical/Corporate Governance
- K3 the duty to report any acts or omissions in care that could be detrimental to yourself, other individuals or your employer
- K4 the importance of working within your own sphere of competence and seeking advice when faced with situations outside your sphere of competence
- K5 what valid consent means and why it must be obtained and confirmed prior to actions being taken
- K6 the importance of applying standard precautions to removing wound drains and the potential consequences of poor practice
- K7 why individuals should be supported and told about the procedure for drain removal
- K8 the concerns and worries which individuals or client groups may have in relation to some clinical procedures
- K9 the adverse reactions which may occur during and following the removal of wound drains and how to identify and deal with these
- K10 the anatomy and physiology of the skin and underlying structures in relation to the removal of wound drains
- K11 the potential consequences of contamination of wound drainage systems and drainage sites while undertaking care activities
- K12 the types, purpose and function of materials and equipment needed for measuring wound drainage
- K13 methods and techniques for preparing and applying dressings and wound supports
- K14 the purposes of measuring the individual's wound drainage
- K15 the importance of distinguishing between body fluids and those introduced during clinical procedures, such as irrigation fluid, in order to get accurate fluid loss measurements
- K16 the methods and techniques for:
 - K16.1 measuring wound drainage
 - K16.2 removing wound drains
- K17 the potential hazards associated with:
 - K17.1 measuring wound drainage
 - K17.2 removing wound drains
- K18 and how they can be avoided or minimised

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- K19 the importance of following the procedure exactly as it is specified, and the potential effects of not doing so
 - K20 the importance of packing up used equipment and soiled dressings, and drainage equipment prior to leaving the immediate care area
 - K21 how and where to dispose of used wound drainage systems and drains following removal
 - K22 the specific records required for reporting on removal of wound drains
 - K23 the importance of keeping accurate and up to date records

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Additional Information

External links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB5 Provision of care to meet health and wellbeing needs

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