

SFHCHS14

Remove wound closure materials from individuals



Overview

This standard covers removing wound closure materials from individuals. It is applicable in a variety of care settings including hospitals, care homes, the individuals own home or other community settings such as GP surgeries. This standard involves removing and disposing of wound closure materials using an aseptic technique and following local guidelines and procedures, as and when directed by a competent practitioner.

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
- P4 gain valid consent to carry out removal of the wound closure material
- P5 confirm all equipment and materials are:
 - P5.1 appropriate to the method of removal of wound closure material
 - P5.2 fit for purpose
- P6 confirm the absence of contra-indications to removing wound closure material
- P7 carry out removal of the wound closure material:
 - P7.1 causing the individual minimal distress, discomfort or pain
 - P7.2 at an appropriate time according to the individual's plan of care
 - P7.3 following the agreed procedure
 - P7.4 using the correct technique
- P8 stop the activity, reassure the individual and seek advice without delay if you have any problems in removing the wound closure material
- P9 ensure all wound closure material had been completely removed
- P10 dispose of waste appropriately
- P11 observe the individuals throughout the activity
- P12 recognise and report any condition or behaviour which may signify adverse reactions to the activity and take the appropriate action
- P13 record the outcomes of the activity correctly using the method agreed in your care setting
- P14 report your findings and/or activity to the appropriate member of the care team

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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 closure materials from individuals
- 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 applying standard precautions to removing wound closure materials from individuals and the potential consequences of poor practice
- K5 the importance of working within your own sphere of competence and seeking advice when faced with situations outside your sphere of competence
- K6 what valid consent means and why it must be obtained and confirmed prior to actions being taken
- K7 why individuals should be supported and told about the nature of the of the activity
- 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 following procedures and how to identify and deal with these
- K10 the anatomy and physiology of the skin and underlying tissues in relation to:
 - K10.1 the type of wound closure material used
 - K10.2 the removal of wound closure material
- K11 the following regarding wound healing:
 - K11.1 the process of wound healing
 - K11.2 factors affecting wound healing
 - K11.3 potential complications of wound healing
- K12 the following:
 - K12.1 asepsis
 - K12.2 antisepsis
 - K12.3 cross infection
- K13 how aseptic technique contributes to the control of infection
- K14 potential sources of contamination when undertaking removal of wound closure material and appropriate measures to reduce or deal with them
- K15 the potential consequences of wound contamination
- K16 the following:
 - K16.1 the equipment and materials required for removing wound closure

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- materials from individuals' wounds
- K16.2 why resources should be prepared before you start the activity
- K16.3 the personal protective clothing and additional protective equipment which may be worn for the individual's and your protection
- K17 the importance of following the procedure exactly as it is specified, and the potential effects of not doing so
- K18 the importance of packing away used equipment and soiled dressings prior to leaving the immediate care area
- K19 how and where to dispose of used equipment and soiled materials used for treatments and dressings
- K20 why questions which are beyond your role or knowledge need to be passed onto the appropriate member of the care team
- K21 the following regarding records:
 - K21.1 the importance of keeping accurate and up to date records
 - K21.2 the specific records required for reporting on the removal of wound closure materials
- K22 the importance of immediately reporting any issues which are outside your own sphere of competence without delay to the relevant member of staff

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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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Validity Current

Status Original

Originating organisation Skills for Health

Original URN CHS14

Relevant occupations Health, Public Services and Care; Health and Social Care; Managers and Senior Officials; Associate Professionals and Technical Occupations; Health and Social Services Officers; Health Associate Professionals; Personal Service Occupations; Healthcare and Related Personal Services

Suite Clinical Health Skills

Key words Take out stitches, sutures, clips, staples,