
Overview

This standard covers the actions involved in maintaining the viability of a surgical site during an intervention. It involves using techniques such as oxygenation, perfusion, suction, aspiration and debridement to manage the optimal viability and visibility of the site, and organs and tissues in and around the site exposed as a result of the intervention. It includes identifying and reacting to any complications that might compromise the viability of the site.

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 control and other relevant health and safety measures, and wear personal protective clothing and additional protective equipment as appropriate
- P2 ensure that relevant equipment, tools and materials are available for maintaining the viability of the site, and are in a suitable state for use
- P3 work appropriately in your role within a team or independently to maintain the viability of the surgical site, and refer to others where appropriate or necessary, in line with legislation, policies, guidelines and protocols
- P4 use appropriate techniques to manage the optimal viability and visibility of the site is maintained
- P5 use appropriate techniques to ensure that the optimal viability of organs and tissues exposed as a result of the intervention is maintained
- P6 identify and react to any complications that might compromise the viability of the site
- P7 discontinue your role in maintaining viability of the surgical site at the optimum point for the successful completion of the surgical intervention being performed on the individual
- P8 respect the privacy, dignity and confidentiality of the individual throughout your interaction with them
- P9 maintain timely, accurate, complete and legible records in accordance with legislation, policies and procedures and work at all times within appropriate patient and information confidentiality guidelines and protocols
- P10 work within your scope of responsibility and accountability, referring to others where appropriate and/or necessary

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the current European, national and local legislation, policies, protocols and guidelines which affect your work practice
- K2 your responsibilities under the current European, national and local legislation, policies, protocols and guidelines with respect to maintaining the viability of surgical sites
- K3 the legislation, policies and guidance which clarify your scope of practice and the relationship between yourself and other members of staff in terms of delegation and supervision
- K4 the principles of asepsis, the maintenance of the sterile field and the potential consequence of poor practice
- K5 the importance of following standard precautions and the protective clothing which may be worn for the individual's and your protection
- K6 the potential consequences of poor practice in relation to the application of standard precautions
- K7 your role and responsibilities, those of other health and care providers with whom you work whilst maintaining the viability of surgical sites and the importance of working within your own scope of practice
- K8 the appropriate methods, procedures and techniques involved in maintaining the viability of the surgical site
- K9 the materials, instruments and equipment required to maintain the viability of a surgical site and the techniques for correct and safe handling and usage
- K10 the importance of the positioning of the individual with regard to maintaining the surgical site
- K11 the types of complications that might arise whilst maintaining the viability of the surgical site and the responses that should be made to deal with them
- K12 how to practise in such a way as to minimise complications and risk to individuals
- K13 the principles of pharmaceuticals being used during an intervention (including anaesthesia) and their relevance to maintaining the viability of the surgical site
- K14 applied anatomy, general and system specific physiology and pathology and its application maintaining the viability of the surgical site
- K15 the importance of recording information about the maintenance of site viability clearly, accurately and in a timely and systematic manner
- K16 the types of information that must be recorded in relation to maintaining the viability of a surgical site

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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: HWB7 Interventions and treatments

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