

Sullivan County Department of Public Health

<u>Title:</u> Wound Culture	Original Approval: 6/87
<u>Number:</u> CP-31	Reviewed/ revised: 9/99, 9/05, 1/16, 5/24
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Statement/ Purpose:

To provide guidelines for the collection of wound drainage for culture.

Authority:

n/a

Application:

SCDPH CHHA RNs

Terminology:

Responsible Party:

Training and Quality Improvement Coordinator

Cross-Reference:

Hand Hygiene,

Procedure:

1. Confirm provider's order
2. Explain the purpose and procedure to the patient. The purpose is to determine bacteria type to aid provider in determining best treatment.
3. Gather supplies.
4. Perform hand hygiene.
5. Don non-sterile gloves
6. Expose the site to be cultured while maintaining the patient's privacy. The old dressing should be disposed of.
7. Cleans around the site with dry, sterile gauze.
8. Remove the cap from the culturette, exposing the sterile tipped applicator.
9. Beginning in the center of the wound and using a rolling motion, absorb the drainage into the sterile applicator.
10. Carefully insert the applicator back into the culturette while maintaining sterility of the specimen.
11. Crush the ampule in the tip of the culturette by squeezing.
12. Apply dressing to the wound according to provider order.
13. Label the culturette with the following:
 - a. Patient's name
 - b. Patient's date of birth
 - c. Date
 - d. Provider's name

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14. Complete the laboratory request form and place it with the specimen in a plastic bag for transportation to the laboratory.
15. Remove gloves and dispose appropriately.
16. Perform hand hygiene.
17. Document the procedure, including the following, in the patient's clinical record:
 - a. Characteristics of the wound drainage.
 - b. Patient's reaction to the procedure
 - c. The laboratory to which the specimen was delivered
 - d. Results of testing
 - e. Communication with the provider
 - f. Any other pertinent information.