

# Sullivan County Department of Public Health

<b><u>Title:</u></b> Wound Irrigation	Original Approval: 9/99
<b><u>Number:</u></b> CP-33	Reviewed/ revised: 10/05, 7/12, 5/24
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**Statement/ Purpose:**

To provide guidelines for irrigating a wound.

**Authority:**

**Application:**

SCDPH CHHA RNs and LPNs

**Terminology:**

**Responsible Party:**

Training and Quality Improvement Coordinator

**Cross-Reference:**

Hand Hygiene, wound documentation

**Procedure:**

1. Confirm provider's order for wound irrigation.
2. Instruct patient and/ or caregiver regarding the purpose for the wound irrigation:
  - a. To remove secretions.
  - b. To encourage tissue healing.
  - c. To increase circulation to affected area.
  - d. To decrease infection.
  - e. To promote skin comfort.
3. Perform hand hygiene.
4. Gather supplies and equipment needed.
5. Position patient in a position that permits irrigant flow into the wound.
6. Pad the patient and bed to control the flow or irrigant and drainage.
7. Don disposable gloves.
8. Remove old dressings and dispose of appropriately.
9. Asses wound size, depth, color, drainage, odor and condition of surrounding tissue.
10. Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene.
11. Don clean gloves and other personal protective equipment as needed (i.e., eye shield).
12. Set up clean field.
13. Pour prescribed irrigant into irrigation container.
14. Carefully irrigate entire wound with piston syringe.
15. Allow all irrigant to drain out of the wound.

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16. Dry wound with sterile gauze.
17. Assess wound for presence of granulation tissue.
18. Apply physician-prescribed dressing according to the appropriate procedure.
19. Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene.
20. Document procedure, including the following, in the patient's clinical record:
  - a. Condition of the wound
  - b. Depth and size
  - c. Drainage, if any
  - d. Odor, if any
  - e. Patient's tolerance of procedure
  - f. Condition of the surrounding tissue
  - g. Any tissue granulation noted.
  - h. Any education to patient and/or caregiver.
  - i. Any communication with patient's provider.