

Sullivan County Department of Public Health

<u>Title:</u> Wound Measurement	Original Approval: 9/99
<u>Number:</u> CP-34	Reviewed/ revised: 10/05, 9/08, 7/12, 5/24
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Statement/ Purpose:

To assess wound healing and document wound status weekly.

Authority:

Application:

SCDPH CHHA RNs and LPNs

Terminology:

Responsible Party:

Training and Quality Improvement Coordinator

Cross-Reference:

Hand Hygiene, Wound documentation

Procedure:

1. Perform hand hygiene.
2. Gather supplies.
3. Explain the procedure to the patient and/or caregiver.
4. Position the patient in the same position each time the wound is measured.
5. Don non-sterile gloves.
6. Using tape measure in cm, measure wound length (head-toe), be careful not to allow the tape measure to touch the wound.
7. Using tape measure in cm, measure wound width (side-side), being careful not to allow the tape measure to touch the wound.
8. Determine the depth by inserting a sterile cotton-tipped swab at the deepest point of the wound, then hold the swab against the tape measure to measure in cm. Do not touch the swab to the tap measure.
9. Measure tunneling with a sterile cotton-tipped swab. Slide swab into opening until resistance is met, withdraw the swab and measure. Do not touch swab to tape measure.
10. Relate location of tunneling to a clock, i.e., 3 cm tunneling at 3:00.
11. Remove gloves and dispose of appropriately.
12. Perform hand hygiene.
13. Document the wound measurements at least weekly per agency policy in patient's electronic health record.
14. Notify provider of any significant changes in the wound status and document the same.

If wound is present at the start of care, it should be assigned a number for differentiation and future documentation.

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This number should be followed through-out the patient's medical record.

If a new wound develops after start of care:

1. Notify the provider of the wound, provide all necessary details and receive new orders if applicable.
2. Document the wound on the patient's electronic medical record per agency policy.