Sullivan County Department of Public Health

Title: Dry Sterile Dressing **Number**: CP-37 **Page Number:** 1 of 2	Original Approval: 1989 Reviewed/ revised: 9/99, 9/05, 4/24

Statement/ Purpose:
To provide guidelines for the application of sterile, dry dressings.

Authority:

Application:
RNs, LPNs, PTs, OTs

Terminology:

Responsible Party:
Training and Quality Improvement Coordinator

Cross-Reference:
Hand Hygiene, Photography/ Videography of Patients

Procedure:
1. Confirm provider's order for the dressing change.
2. Instruct the patient and/or caregiver regarding the purpose of the dressing:
    a. To absorb wound secretions, if any
    b. To prevent further skin irritation
    c. To enhance healing
    d. To prevent infection
    e. To promote skin comfort
3. Perform hand hygiene
4. Gather necessary dressing supplies
5. Position patient comfortably and in a position that the dressing can be easily changed
6. Don non-sterile, disposable gloves
7. Remove old dressing and place in trash receptacle
8. Assess wound size, color, depth, drainage, odor, and condition of surrounding tissue.
9. Don sterile gloves
10. Using prescribed cleaning solution, clean from the clean to dirty area of the wound, utilizing gentle but firm strokes.
11. Apply dressing as ordered.
12. Secure dressing
13. Discard trash/ original dressing in patient's household trash.
14. Remove gloves and discard appropriately

15. Assist patient with comfort measures.
16. Complete hand hygiene.
17. Document procedure, including the following, in the patient's clinical record:
    a. Wound size/ measurements
    b. Drainage, if any
    c. Odor, if any
    d. Patient's tolerance of procedure
    e. Condition of surrounding tissue
    f. Instructions provided to patient and/or caregiver.