Remove gauze and use a clean gauze swab to cleanse the surrounding skin.

Wound Cleansing Policy

Assess the wound in accordance with Trust Policy

Has the wound been present for more than 21 days?

Yes

Soak gauze with Prontosan wound irrigation solution.

Apply soaked gauze to the wound and leave in situ for 10 minutes.

Remove gauze and use a clean gauze swab to cleanse the surrounding skin.

Is the wound heavily exuding?

Yes

Apply dressing as per Wound Care Formulary.

If any of following factors associated with increased risk of wound infection present?

Characteristics of the individual
- Poorly controlled diabetes
- Prior surgery
- Radiation therapy or chemotherapy
- Conditions associated with hypoxia and/or poor tissue perfusion (e.g. anaemia, cardiac or respiratory disease, arterial or vascular disease, renal impairment, rheumatoid, arthritis, shock)
- Immune system disorders (e.g. acquired immune deficiency syndrome, malignancy)
- Inappropriate antibiotic prophylaxis, particularly in acute wounding
- Nutritional deficiencies
- Alcohol, smoking and drug abuse

Characteristics of the wound
- Acute wounds
  - Contaminated or dirty wounds
  - Trauma with delayed treatment
  - Pre-existing infection or sepsis
  - Spillage from gastro-intestinal tract
  - Operative factors (e.g. long surgical procedure, hypothermia, blood transfusion)
- Chronic wounds
  - Degree of chronicity/duration of wound
  - Large wound area
  - Deep wound
  - Anatomically located near a site of potential contamination (e.g. perineum or sacrum)
- Both wound types
  - Foreign body (e.g. drains, sutures)
  - Haematoma
  - Necrotic wound tissue
  - Impaired tissue perfusion
  - Increased exudate or moisture
  - Colonised with MRSA

Characteristics of the environment
- Hospitalisation (due to increased risk of exposure to antibiotic resistant organisms)
- Poor hand hygiene and aseptic technique
- Unhygienic environment (e.g. dust, unclean surfaces, mould/mildew in bathrooms)
- Inadequate management of moisture, exudate and oedema
- Repeated trauma (e.g. inappropriate dressing removal technique)

Discontinue Prontosan wound irrigation solution/gel X if signs of local spreading and systemic infection have resolved unless the patient has any of the risk factors associated with increased risk of wound infection.

Prontosan is a surfactant antimicrobial solution which is indicated for use on wounds that are at risk of local, spreading and systemic infection. Prontosan irrigation solution bottles and gel should be labelled with the date of opening and discarded within 8 weeks of opening. Prontosan irrigation Solution ampules are single use and should be discarded immediately following application to a wound.

Cleanse wound in accordance with local Wound Management Practice.

Reassess at every dressing change in accordance with Trust Policy.