Non-Sterile Dressing Change

Purpose: Non-sterile dressings protect open wounds from contamination and absorb drainage.

Policy: Designated staff member will use non-sterile dressings when indicated on care Plan and/or per physicians order.

Equipment:
- Non-sterile dressing set
  OR
- 2 pair gloves
- 1 linen saver
- 1 trash bag
- Normal saline
- 4 x 4 gauze sponges
- 1 roll tape
- 1 emesis basin
- cover dressing

Procedure:
1. Bring equipment to patient’s room. Knock on door.
2. Provide privacy to patient, explain procedure.
3. Prepare a clean, dry work area at bedside.
4. Wash hands, apply gloves.
5. Reposition patient to expose area to be dressed. Avoid exposing the patient unnecessarily.
6. Place the linen saver or a towel under the patient.
7. Place trash bag at end of bed.
8. Remove soiled dressing, place it in trash bag.
9. Wash hands.
11. Wash Hands or use alcohol hand gel.
12. Apply new gloves.
13. Clean wound with normal saline. (Follow procedure for wound cleansing/irrigating)
14. Pat the tissue surrounding the wound dry with a 4 x 4.
15. Apply prescribed dressing/ointment.
16. Initial and date the dressing.
17. Reposition patient.
18. Discard gloves and all used supplies in trash bag.
19. Wash hands.
20. Document the dressing change in medical record.