

## Non-Sterile Dressing Change

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

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

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**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

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**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.
10. Prepare/open dressing items on table. Including tape.
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.