




Wound Care Algorithm

Epithelializing, red or pink tissue


Exudate: none to minimal		
Therapeutic goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote epithelialization and wound maturation (contraction) 	
Role of dressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect new tissue growth 	
Wound bed preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean the wound 	
Primary dressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Silicone contact layer Hydrogel Hydrocolloid Bordered foam dressing 	
Secondary dressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydrocolloid Bordered foam dressing Use pad and secure with roll gauze, stretch netting, or retention bandage Avoid dressings that may cause occlusion and maceration Use tapes with caution due to allergy potential and secondary complications 	


Exudate: moderate to copious		
Therapeutic goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage exudate Provide healthy wound bed for epithelialization 	
Role of dressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain moisture balance Protect new tissue growth 	
Wound bed preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean the wound Consider barrier products 	
Primary dressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absorbent dressing (Alginate/ Gelling Fiber, Foam) Silicone contact layer For deeper wounds with tunneling or undermining, use packing strips, alginate rope, or roll gauze 	
Secondary dressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cover with super absorbent dressing/ non-adhesive foam and secure with roll gauze, stretch netting, or retention bandage Avoid dressings that may cause occlusion and maceration Use tapes with caution due to allergy potential and secondary complications 	

Necrotic tissue (stable)


Exudate: none		
Therapeutic goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep clean and dry Reduce friction on stable necrotic tissue Consider vascular assessment If necrotic tissue becomes movable, refer for debridement 	
Role of dressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not necessary Protect stable necrotic tissue as natural barrier to infection 	
Wound bed preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply skin prep directly to stable necrotic tissue and consider leaving open to air 	
Primary dressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cover/secure with roll gauze 	
Secondary dressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply skin prep directly to stable necrotic tissue and consider leaving open to air 	

Sloughy, yellow, brown, black or gray tissue (unstable necrotic tissue)

Exudate: none to minimal		
Therapeutic goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove slough Provide clean wound bed for granulation tissue 	
Role of dressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydrate wound bed Control moisture balance Promote autolytic debridement 	
Wound bed preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surgical or mechanical debridement, if appropriate Clean the wound (consider antiseptic solution) 	
Primary dressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydrogel or Hydrogel with silver 	
Secondary dressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foam dressing or Hydrocolloid 	

Exudate: moderate to copious		
Therapeutic goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove slough Provide clean wound bed for granulation tissue Manage exudate 	
Role of dressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absorb excess fluid Protect periwound skin to prevent maceration Promote autolytic debridement 	
Wound bed preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surgical or mechanical debridement, if appropriate Clean the wound (consider antiseptic solution) Consider barrier products 	
Primary dressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absorbent dressing (Alginate/ Gelling Fiber, Foam) For deeper wounds with tunneling or undermining, use packing strips, alginate rope, roll gauze, or antimicrobial product 	
Secondary dressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cover with bordered foam Cover with super absorbent dressing/ non-adhesive foam and secure with roll gauze, stretch netting, or retention bandage 	

Infected tissue

Exudate: minimal to copious		
Therapeutic goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce bacterial load Manage exudate Control odor 	
Role of dressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antimicrobial action Moist wound healing 	
Wound bed preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean the wound (consider antiseptic solution) Consider barrier products 	
Primary dressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antimicrobial 	
Secondary dressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use pad and/or retention bandage Avoid bandages that may cause occlusion and maceration Use tapes with caution due to allergy potential and secondary complications 	

For more information contact your local Cardinal Health sales representative or visit cardinalhealth.com/skinmission