

Pathway for Wound Cleansing

Has the wound been present for more than 14 days?

Yes

Are any of the 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 | Chronic wounds | Both wound types |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree of chronicity/duration of wound • Large wound area • Deep wound • Anatomically located near a site of potential contamination (e.g. perineum or sacrum). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foreign body (e.g. drains, sutures) • Haematoma • Necrotic wound tissue • Impaired tissue perfusion • Increased exudate or moisture. |

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).

No

Cleanse wound in accordance with local normal saline or water as per you local Wound Management Practice. Reassess at every dressing change.

International Wound Infection. Institute (WII) Wound Infection in clinical practice. Wounds International 2016. Developed by the Skin Integrity Team 2017, reviewed June 2022 version 4. For review June 2024.

Prontosan Wound Irrigation Solution User Guide

Does the wound meet the criteria set within the Wound Cleansing Policy

Yes

- 1 Soak gauze with Prontosan Wound Irrigation Solution.
- 2 Apply soaked gauze to the wound and leave in situ for 10 minutes.
- 3 Remove gauze and use a clean gauze to cleanse the surrounding skin.

4 Consider using Prontosan Debridement Pad to support the soft mechanical debridement of chronic wounds.

- 5 Dampen the Debridement pad using Prontosan Wound Irrigation Solution covering the microfibre side of the pad.
- 6 Apply light pressure, using circular or sweeping motions over areas of slough and debris for 2 - 3 minutes.
- 7 Irrigate the wound with Prontosan Wound Irrigation Solution.

Pre soft mechanical debridement

Post soft mechanical debridement

- 8 Apply dressing as per Wound Care Formulary.
- 9 Reassess the wound at every dressing change.

If the named product on this pathway is not available a temporary second line product is available to use. This can be found within the main text of the Doncaster Wide Wound Care Formulary Document.

Reference: Wounds UK (2013) Best Practice Statement. Effective exudate management. London: Wounds UK. Developed by the Skin Integrity Team and Tissue viability and Lymphedema Service 2021. Updated June 2022. For review June 2024.

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.