Appendix P

Pressure ulcer prevention and management

Dressings
Disclaimer
Healthcare professionals are expected to take NICE clinical guidelines fully into account when exercising their clinical judgement. However, the guidance does not override the responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of each patient, in consultation with the patient and/or their guardian or carer.

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Funding
## Appendix P: Dressings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dressing type</th>
<th>Cost per dressing change (dressing materials only)</th>
<th>Usual Presentation</th>
<th>Prime Treatment Objectives</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Hydrocolloid dressing                | £3.37                                              | Hydrocolloid layer bonded to a film membrane or foam pad, Semi-permeable to water vapour and oxygen                                                | Protection  
Rehydration of tissues  
Promote autolysis  
Absorption (moderate)  
Optimise the local wound healing environment |
|                                      | e.g. Activheal hydrocolloid (15cm x 15cm)          |                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                             |
| Gauze dressing                       | £1.02 per 10                                      | Cotton - plain weave  
Ideally should be non-filamented                                                                                                                  | Temporary covering  
Absorption (minimal)  
Padding agent                                                                                                                                         |
| Foam dressing                        | £2.15                                              | Hydrophillic polyurethane foam with or without a plastic film backing. Adhesive and non-adhesive versions                                           | Protection  
Absorption (moderate)  
Optimise the local wound healing environment                                                                                                          |
|                                      | e.g. Activheal                                     |                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                             |
| Polyurethane film membrane dressing  | £2.38                                              | Vapour permeable (to water vapour and oxygen but impermeable to water and micro-organisms) sheets with or without a combined central island pad    | Protection  
Minimise risk of infection (Barrier to micro-organisms)  
Optimise the local wound healing environment (superficial wounds)  
Can also be used as a secondary dressing to secure another interactive dressing in place e.g. Alginates |                                                                                                                                                           |
|                                      | e.g. Leukomed T (15cm x 25cm)                      |                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                             |
| Collagen dressing                    | £6.31                                              | Collagen, silver and oxidised regenerated cellulose matrix sheets (needs to be covered by a secondary dressing)                                    | Rebalancing the wound environment  
Protease modulating matrix dressings used to control the activity of proteolytic enzymes such as MMP’s  
Stimulate healing                                                                                                                   |
<p>|                                      | e.g. Promogran (28 cm²)                            |                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                             |</p>
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<tr>
<td>Hydrogel</td>
<td>£7.51</td>
<td>Amorphous hydrogel (water donating) available in tubes or sheets of a fixed structure</td>
<td>Rehydration of tissues&lt;br&gt;Promote autolysis&lt;br&gt;Stimulate healing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alginate</td>
<td>£3.34</td>
<td>Non-woven or fibrous, non-occlusive, made up of calcium alginate or a combination of calcium alginate and sodium alginate – derived from brown seaweed&lt;br&gt;If has no integral backing sheet, needs to be covered by a secondary dressing</td>
<td>Fill lesions – sinus or cavity&lt;br&gt;Absorption&lt;br&gt;Removal of slough and/or cellular debris from the wound bed&lt;br&gt;Assists with haemostasis (should not be prime reason for use)&lt;br&gt;Stimulate healing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charcoal dressing</td>
<td>£2.37</td>
<td>Activated charcoal contained with another dressing material such as viscose rayon / foam / alginate</td>
<td>Odour absorbing&lt;br&gt;Fluid absorption (minimal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phenytoin ointment</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>An alginate (see above) impregnated with Silver</td>
<td>Anti-microbial effect&lt;br&gt;Fill lesions – sinus or cavity&lt;br&gt;Absorption&lt;br&gt;Removal of slough and/or cellular debris from the wound bed&lt;br&gt;Assists with haemostasis (should not be prime reason for use)&lt;br&gt;Stimulate healing</td>
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<td>Silver alginate</td>
<td>£7.26</td>
<td>Three layer dressing consisting of a polyester core between low adherent silver coated high density polyethylene mesh</td>
<td>Anti-microbial effect&lt;br&gt;Minimise risk of infection (Barrier to micro-organisms)&lt;br&gt;Absorption (moderate)&lt;br&gt;Stimulate healing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver dressing</td>
<td>£12.62</td>
<td>Three layer dressing consisting of a polyester core between low adherent silver coated high density polyethylene mesh</td>
<td>Anti-microbial effect&lt;br&gt;Minimise risk of infection (Barrier to micro-organisms)&lt;br&gt;Absorption (moderate)&lt;br&gt;Stimulate healing</td>
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| Sugar             | £8.38 per 125gm²                                     | Needs to made up as a paste (usually in pharmacy). Always requires a secondary dressing | Increase osmolarity of wound bed  
Antimicrobial effect  
Stimulate healing                                                                                                           |
| Resin salve       | N/A                                                 |                                                                                     |                                                                                                                |
| Hydrofibre dressing | £4.91  
 e.g. Aquacel (15cm x 15 cm) | Soft non-woven pad containing hydrocolloid fibres, resemble alginate dressings     | Fill lesions – sinus or cavity  
Absorption (moderate)  
Removal of slough and /or cellular debris from the wound bed  
Assists with haemostasis (should not be prime reason for use)  
Stimulate healing                                                                                 |

(a) Dressing costs obtained from the BNF\(^2\) unless otherwise stated  
(b) Cost obtained from NHS supply chain\(^2\)  
(c) Cost provided by GDG member

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Pressure ulcers

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P.1 References
