
Professional Certificate in Minor Injuries and Illness

Wound Care and Management

Wound Care and Management Glossary

Wound Care and Management: The process of assessing, treating, and monitoring wounds to promote healing and prevent complications.

Abscess: A collection of pus that forms in tissues, organs, or spaces within the body as a result of infection.

Acute Wound: A wound that typically heals within a predictable timeframe, such as a cut or surgical incision.

Alginate Dressing: A type of wound dressing made from seaweed extract that forms a gel when in contact with wound exudate, promoting a moist wound environment.

Antimicrobial Dressing: A type of wound dressing that contains agents designed to reduce or prevent microbial colonization of the wound.

Biofilm: A complex structure formed by bacteria that can adhere to the surface of a wound, making it difficult to treat.

Chronic Wound: A wound that fails to progress through the normal stages of wound healing within an expected timeframe, often due to underlying medical conditions.

Compression Therapy: The use of compression bandages or garments to improve circulation and reduce swelling in patients with venous ulcers or lymphedema.

Debridement: The removal of dead or damaged tissue from a wound to promote healing.

Exudate: Fluid that oozes from a wound, containing proteins, cells, and other substances.

Foam Dressing: A type of wound dressing made from polyurethane foam that absorbs exudate and maintains a moist wound environment.

Granulation Tissue: New tissue that forms during the healing process, composed of blood vessels, fibroblasts, and collagen.

Hydrocolloid Dressing: A type of wound dressing that forms a gel when in contact with wound exudate, providing a moist environment for healing.

Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy: A treatment in which patients breathe pure oxygen in a pressurized chamber to promote wound healing.

Incision: A surgical cut made in the skin or other tissue.

Infection: The invasion and multiplication of microorganisms in body tissues, leading to inflammation and tissue damage.

Laceration: A jagged or irregular tear in the skin caused by trauma.

Necrosis: Death of cells or tissues within a living organism.

Negative Pressure Wound Therapy: A treatment in which a vacuum dressing is applied to a wound to promote healing and remove excess fluid.

Pressure Ulcer: A localized injury to the skin and/or underlying tissue, usually over a bony prominence, as a result of pressure or pressure in combination with shear.

Primary Intention Healing: Wound healing that occurs when the edges of a wound are close together and can be easily approximated, such as a surgical incision.

Secondary Intention Healing: Wound healing that occurs when a wound is left open to heal from the bottom up, such as a pressure ulcer.

Serous Fluid: A clear, watery fluid that can be found in wounds, containing proteins, electrolytes, and nutrients.

Skin Tear: A traumatic wound caused by shearing, friction, or blunt force that separates the layers of the skin.

Sterile Technique: A set of practices used to prevent contamination of wounds and maintain asepsis during wound care procedures.

Sutures: Stitches used to hold the edges of a wound together during healing.

Topical Antimicrobial: An agent applied directly to the skin to prevent or treat wound infections.

Wound Assessment: The process of evaluating a wound's size, depth, appearance, and surrounding tissue to determine the appropriate treatment plan.

Wound Bed: The base of a wound where new tissue forms during the healing process.

Wound Closure: The process of bringing the edges of a wound together to promote healing and reduce the risk of infection.

Wound Drainage: The flow of fluid from a wound, which can be serous, serosanguinous, purulent, or hemorrhagic.

Wound Exudate: Fluid that leaks out of blood vessels into the tissues, often seen in wounds as a sign of inflammation.

Wound Infection: The invasion of microorganisms into a wound, leading to inflammation, delayed healing, and potential complications.

Wound Irrigation: The process of flushing a wound with a solution to remove debris, promote healing, and prevent infection.

Wound Packing: The placement of a dressing or material into the depth of a wound to absorb exudate and promote healing.

Wound VAC: A negative pressure wound therapy device that uses suction to promote healing and remove excess fluid from wounds.

Wound Healing: The complex process of tissue repair that occurs in response to injury, involving inflammation, proliferation, and remodeling phases.

Wound Tunneling: An abnormal passageway that extends from the wound surface into surrounding tissue, often seen in chronic wounds.