

# Recommended IPC Practices During Wound Care

For Long Term Care Facilities



**Enhanced Barrier Precautions, along with Standard Precautions, are indicated for wound care procedures:**

## Perform hand hygiene:

- ◆ Before and after wound care, even if gloves will be worn
- ◆ After removal of PPE, including if gloves are changed during the procedure
- ◆ When moving from a dirty task to a clean task

## Select proper personal protective equipment (PPE):

- ◆ Gown and gloves should be worn during all wound care procedures.
- ◆ Goggles and a facemask or face shield should be worn during wound care procedures that may generate splashes or aerosols.

## Handle wound care supplies properly, including medications:

- ♦ The clean supply cart and/or caddy should never enter the patient/resident room.
- ♦ Supplies on the cart or caddy should only be handled with clean hands.
- ♦ Supplies should be placed on a clean surface.
- ♦ Maintain separation between clean and dirty supplies.
  - ♦ If multiple wounds are present, each wound should have its own dressing change supplies. Work from the cleanest wound site to the dirtiest.
- ♦ Unused supplies should not return to the supply cart or caddy (dedicate or discard).
- ♦ Sprays or containers of medication (creams, ointments) should be dedicated to an individual, whenever possible.
  - ♦ A small amount of medication should be allocated for single patient/resident use prior to the procedure.
  - ♦ The remainder of the multi-dose container should be properly stored in a dedicated clean area.
- ♦ Containers entering patient/resident care areas should be dedicated to that patient/resident.

## Clean and disinfect:

- ♦ Environmental surfaces and reusable wound care equipment can serve as sources of pathogens if they are not properly cleaned and disinfected.
- ♦ Reusable wound care equipment should be cleaned and disinfected after each use.
- ♦ Any surface in the treatment area that could have been contaminated during wound care should be immediately cleaned and disinfected after the procedure.
- ♦ If possible, utilize clean facility supplies rather than bringing supplies into the building to avoid cross-contamination.

