

Acute Wound Management in Primary Care






Traumatic or surgical wound dressings should remain undisturbed for at least 72hrs unless there are complications or changed when strike through of exudate / bleeding demands.

Doctor may prescribe specific orders for some incision sites depending on closure of the wounds.

Skin protection wipes should be used on the periwound area to prevent maceration.



Type of wound	Type of Dressing	Change of dressing	Photos
Trauma or Surgical: Clips/Sutures	Film island dressing or simple dressing pad (must keep dry)	Leave intact for approx. 5 days unless strike through / leakage occurs.	
Complex / chronic wound Moderate exudate	Product to absorb exudate Eg Hydrofibre or Alginate	May need changing daily until exudate decreases, then 2-3 days / PRN	
Painful wounds with minimal exudate eg Crush Injuries to digits Exudate	Silicone primary dressing & pad	Can be left intact 3-5days	
Infected wounds	Antimicrobial dressing eg Silver, Slow release iodine or honey dressings	If cellulitis present daily COD & reassessment.	