

SUBJECT: WOUND CARE - BURNS	REFERENCE #8131
DEPARTMENT: REHABILITATION SERVICES	PAGE: 1 OF: 3
APPROVED BY:	EFFECTIVE: REVISED:

POLICY:

- Wound care procedures are performed by the Physical Therapist or under the supervision of the Physical Therapist.
- Patients with infected, open wounds may be placed in the whirlpool with the addition of an appropriate and approved bacteriocidal agent, according to the physician's orders.
- Standard Precautions and strict sterile technique are followed for all patients.
- All staff shall demonstrate competence prior to conducting a burn procedure.

PROCEDURE:

- Evaluation:
 - Upon physician request or when infection is suspected, wound cultures will be obtained.
 - A patient assessment is performed on all patients with the primary diagnosis of burns or open wounds:
 - The patient assessment and documentation includes:
 - ◆ Date of injury
 - ◆ Date of surgery, as applicable
 - ◆ History and etiology
 - ◆ Description of wound and burn (tissue):
 - Size and condition
 - Depth and degree
 - Body surface area, i.e., rule of nines

SUBJECT: WOUND CARE - BURNS	REFERENCE #8131
DEPARTMENT: REHABILITATION SERVICES	PAGE: 2
	OF: 3
APPROVED BY:	EFFECTIVE:
	REVISED:

- Location
- Color
- Odor
- Infection present - describe exudate
- Eschar
- Inflammation (erythema)
- Blisters
- Edema (girth measurements)
- Stage of healing
- Range of motion (ROM)
- Sensory and nerve involvement
- Strength
- Function level
- Vital signs
- Pain level
- Other system status:
 - ◆ Respiratory
 - ◆ Visual
 - ◆ Circulatory
 - ◆ Bone and tendon

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DEPARTMENT: REHABILITATION SERVICES	PAGE: 3
	OF: 3
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- Treatment:
 - Procedure for treatment of burns and open wounds will be followed.
 - Standard Precautions will be observed.

REFERENCES:

- O'Sullivan, Susan B., Schmitz, Thomas J., *Physical Rehabilitation*, F.A. Davis Company; Fifth Edition, 2007, p.1102
- Irion, G., PhD, PT, CWS, *Comprehensive Wound Management*, Slack Incorporated, Second Edition, 2010