Homely Remedies Protocol for the Treatment of Newly Found Wounds

This document should be used in conjunction with the North Yorkshire Homely Remedies Policy (January 2013)

Introduction

Dressing remedies are dressings for the temporary treatment of newly found wounds, including burns, pressure ulcers and traumatic wounds such as cuts or scratches that break the skin. They have not been prescribed for the individual person but are dressings that are available for purchase over the counter in a pharmacy and are held as stock by the home.

The purpose

To enable staff in care homes to safely cover the wound as a first aid measure using an appropriate dressing.

In homes providing 'Nursing Care' the dressing will be used to safely cover the wound until an appropriate dressing is obtained on FP10 prescription. This will be at the discretion of the nurse in charge in consultation with the local tissue viability nurse where appropriate.

In homes providing 'Personal Care' the dressing will be used to safely cover the wound until a district nurse can attend to assess the wound. (See overleaf)

Record keeping

The dressing remedy must be recorded on the person's medication administration record (MAR) chart and signed by the carer who has applied the dressing, appropriate notes should be made in the person's care plan.

A stock record must be completed when stocks are received into the home and each time a dressing is used.

Storage and expiry of dressing remedies

Dressing remedies should be stored in a locked room in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions i.e. at room temperature and in a horizontal position. Check expiry date of products prior to use.

A simple non-adherent dressing should be used.

Examples of appropriate dressings are:
Mepilex Border Lite (Molnlycke)
Allevyn Gentle Border (Smith & Nephew)
Biatain Silicone (Coloplast)

Consideration should be given to choosing a product which is in your local 'Dressings Formulary'
The dressings can be purchased from your local pharmacy.

Application of dressings in Homes Providing Personal Care

- Dressings should only be applied at the discretion of the senior person on duty.

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions as provided with dressings in the box

    o Check that the dressing to be used is still in date

    o Wash and dry your hands and put on disposable gloves before attending to the wound.

    o Select a dressing where the foam pad overlaps the wound edge by a minimum of 1-2 centimetres. If the wound is too big to be covered safely by a 10cm x 10cm dressing advice should be taken from the district nurse immediately.

    o Remove the dressing carefully from the packaging. Remove the protective handles and ensure that the dressing is applied to the wound without touching the surface of the dressing that will be next to the wound.

Nursing or medical advice should be sought immediately if the wound is deep, bleeding heavily or too big to be safely covered by a 10cm x 10cm dressing.

What next?

The District Nurse must be informed immediately and requested to visit within 48 hours-this request should be recorded in the person's daily notes.

If this policy does not meet the needs of wounds presenting in your homes please discuss with your Tissue Viability Nurse, Community Matron or pharmacists from the Medicines Management Social Care Support Team.

The following people were involved in the development of this policy:

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