

Preparing the Wound Bed

Before a wound is dressed it should be cleansed gently but well to avoid injury to any new cells and to dislodge any loose debris on its surface.

For general wound cleansing **Normal Saline** is recommended unless other solutions are specifically ordered.

“**Normal Saline** is an effective cleansing agent when delivered to the wound site with adequate force to agitate and wash away surface debris and devitalized tissue that may harbor bacteria” (Bryant and Nix, 2007), serving as a preventive measure.

Irrigation is the chosen method of saline delivery for wound cleansing.

Irrigation of a wound with a deliver pressure of 8 – 12 pounds per square inch (psi) should ensure adequate removal of surface debris.

Each wound should be irrigated with 100 m. of saline to ensure adequate cleansing. This can be facilitated with the single use sterile saline 0.9% filled irrigation bottles available on all units.

In the case of the tunneled wound it may be necessary to use a soft rubber catheter attached to a syringe to ensure saline reaches the entire length for adequate cleaning.

“**The use of topical antiseptics should be reserved for wounds that are non-healable or the local bacterial burden is a greater concern than the stimulation of healing**”, (Sibbald, Williamson, Orsted, Campbell, Keast, Krasner, 2000).

Consult with Wound Specialist/Enterostomal Therapist where topical antiseptics may be indicated.

