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OPINION: DEBRIDEMENT, CONSERVATIVE SHARP WOUND
APPROVED: 5/93
REVISED DATE: 1/02, 1/06, 8/09, 9/12, 11/15
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Within the Scope of Practice of RN LPN

ADVISORY OPINION

DEBRIDEMENT, CONSERVATIVE SHARP WOUND

It is within the scope of practice for a Registered Nurse (RN) or a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to perform conservative sharp wound debridement of necrotic tissue if the following requirements are met.

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. Written policy and procedure are maintained by the agency/employer.
- B. The procedure is performed under the direct supervision of a licensed independent practitioner (LIP)
 1. Direct supervision is defined as: *“the physician or non-physician practitioner must be immediately available to furnish assistance and direction throughout the performance of the procedure. It does not mean that the physician or non-physician practitioner must be present in the room when the procedure is performed.”*
- C. Only RNs and LPNs who have had supervised clinical practice and have satisfactorily completed an instructional program which may include, but is not limited to an accredited Enterostomal Therapy Nursing Education Program (ETNEP), wound management specialty course, or a CE-approved course in debridement are allowed to perform sharp wound debridement.
- D. Documentation of satisfactory completion of an instructional program and demonstrated clinical proficiency are on file with the agency/employer.

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION is to include:

- A. Anatomy/physiology of the integumentary system and the functional relationship of structures such as tendons, nerves and blood vessels.
- B. Indications/Contraindications for sharp wound debridement.
- C. Use of local anesthetics creams.
- D. Principles of wound healing and management.
- E. Potential complications and adverse reactions of sharp wound debridement.
- F. Technique of sharp wound debridement and return demonstration.
- G. After care instructions including pain management.

H. Additional nursing care responsibilities.

III. RATIONALE

RNs and LPNs with documented education and demonstrated proficiency in conservative sharp wound debridement can safely perform this procedure.

IV. REFERENCES

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