Overview

This standard covers removing wound closure materials from individuals. It is applicable in a variety of care settings including hospitals, care homes, the individual's own home or other community settings such as GP surgeries. This standard involves removing and disposing of wound closure materials using an aseptic technique and following local guidelines and procedures, as and when directed by a competent practitioner.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.
Performance criteria

You must be able to:

P1 apply standard precautions for infection prevention and control and take other appropriate health and safety measures
P2 check the individual’s identity and confirm the planned activity
P3 give the individual relevant information, support and reassurance in a manner which is sensitive to their needs and concerns
P4 gain valid consent to carry out removal of the wound closure material
P5 confirm all equipment and materials are:
  P5.1 appropriate to the method of removal of wound closure material
  P5.2 fit for purpose
P6 confirm the absence of contra-indications to removing wound closure material
P7 carry out removal of the wound closure material:
  P7.1 causing the individual minimal distress, discomfort or pain
  P7.2 at an appropriate time according to the individual’s plan of care
  P7.3 following the agreed procedure
  P7.4 using the correct technique
P8 stop the activity, reassure the individual and seek advice without delay if you have any problems in removing the wound closure material
P9 ensure all wound closure material had been completely removed
P10 dispose of waste appropriately
P11 observe the individuals throughout the activity
P12 recognise and report any condition or behaviour which may signify adverse reactions to the activity and take the appropriate action
P13 record the outcomes of the activity correctly using the method agreed in your care setting
P14 report your findings and/or activity to the appropriate member of the care team
Remove wound closure materials from individuals

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

K1 the current European and National legislation, national guidelines, organisational policies and protocols in accordance with Clinical/Corporate Governance which affect your work practice in relation to removing wound closure materials from individuals

K2 your responsibilities and accountability in relation to the current European and National legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols and Clinical/Corporate Governance

K3 the duty to report any acts or omissions in care that could be detrimental to yourself, other individuals or your employer

K4 the importance of applying standard precautions to removing wound closure materials from individuals and the potential consequences of poor practice

K5 the importance of working within your own sphere of competence and seeking advice when faced with situations outside your sphere of competence

K6 what valid consent means and why it must be obtained and confirmed prior to actions being taken

K7 why individuals should be supported and told about the nature of the activity

K8 the concerns and worries which individuals or client groups may have in relation to some clinical procedures

K9 the adverse reactions which may occur following procedures and how to identify and deal with these

K10 the anatomy and physiology of the skin and underlying tissues in relation to:
   K10.1 the type of wound closure material used
   K10.2 the removal of wound closure material

K11 the following regarding wound healing:
   K11.1 the process of wound healing
   K11.2 factors affecting wound healing
   K11.3 potential complications of wound healing

K12 the following:
   K12.1 asepsis
   K12.2 antisepsis
   K12.3 cross infection

K13 how aseptic technique contributes to the control of infection

K14 potential sources of contamination when undertaking removal of wound closure material and appropriate measures to reduce or deal with them

K15 the potential consequences of wound contamination

K16 the following:
   K16.1 the equipment and materials required for removing wound closure
Remove wound closure materials from individuals

- Materials from individuals' wounds
  - K16.2 Why resources should be prepared before you start the activity
  - K16.3 The personal protective clothing and additional protective equipment which may be worn for the individual's and your protection

- K17 The importance of following the procedure exactly as it is specified, and the potential effects of not doing so

- K18 The importance of packing away used equipment and soiled dressings prior to leaving the immediate care area

- K19 How and where to dispose of used equipment and soiled materials used for treatments and dressings

- K20 Why questions which are beyond your role or knowledge need to be passed onto the appropriate member of the care team

- K21 The following regarding records:
  - K21.1 The importance of keeping accurate and up to date records
  - K21.2 The specific records required for reporting on the removal of wound closure materials

- K22 The importance of immediately reporting any issues which are outside your own sphere of competence without delay to the relevant member of staff
SFHCHS14 - SQA Code HD20 04
Remove wound closure materials from individuals

Additional Information

External links
This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB5 Provision of care to meet health and wellbeing needs
The candidate and assessor must only sign below when all Performance Criteria and Knowledge points have been met.

**Unit assessed as being complete**

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**Internal Verification —**
to be completed in accordance with centre’s IV strategy

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This Unit has been subject to an admin check in keeping with the centre's IV strategy.

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**Unit completion confirmed**

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