

Appropriate practices in wound care are essential to prevent disease spread and keep your residents safe.

Where to start

1. Assess the patient for cellulitis
2. Know what organisms occur in your facility:
 - Gram positive organisms?
 - Gram negative organisms?
 - Fungi?

Keep in mind

- ✓ Use Pressure Ulcer Prevention Bundles
- ✓ Implement Standard Precautions and Transmission-based Precautions appropriately
- ✓ Treat timely and appropriately
- ✓ Use Loeb Criteria for antibiotic initiation during skin/soft tissue infection

Principles of Safe Wound Care Practice



- Reusable dressing care equipment (i.e., bandage scissors) should be cleaned or reprocessed if shared between residents.
- Clean wound-dressing supplies should be handled in a way to prevent cross contamination: separate clean supplies from soiled supplies.
- Wound care supplies should remain outside of resident care areas.
- Unused disposable supplies should be discarded after providing care for a resident, or remain dedicated to that resident, and appropriately bagged/boxed and labeled.
- Multi-dose wound care medications such as ointments and creams should be dedicated to a single resident as much as possible, or a small amount must be dispensed into a medication cup outside the treatment area; medication should be appropriately labeled to indicate date it should be discarded; same apply for medication carts and respiratory therapy.

Loeb Minimum Criteria for the Initiation of Antibiotics in Long-Term Care Residents with Suspected Skin/Soft Tissue Infection

New or increasing purulent drainage at a wound, skin, or soft-tissue site

Or,

At least 2 of the following:

- Fever (>37.9C/100F), or 1.5C/2.4F increase above average
- Redness
- Tenderness
- Warmth
- New or increasing swelling

Spaulding Classification

Noncritical Items (contact with intact skin)

Examples: Bandage scissors, hemostats, clamps, blood pressure cuffs, stethoscopes, pulse oximeters

Must be disinfected with a low or intermediate EPA-registered disinfectant after each use; if visibly contaminated with blood, must be cleaned and disinfected with EPA-registered product with label claims for HBV and HIV.

Semi-critical Items (contact with mucous membranes and/or non-intact skin)

Examples: Nail clippers, podiatry and dentistry tools, toothbrushes, razors

Must be single use, dedicated to a single person; if used in multiple residents, must receive high-level disinfection or sterilization.

Critical Items (contact with sterile tissue or vascular system)

Examples: Surgical instruments, scalpels, dental scalers

Must be single use (disposable scalpels); high-level disinfection, or sterilization in acute care.

Check
these
resources



[CDC Disinfection and Sterilization Page](#)



[Preventing Pressure Ulcers in Hospitals](#)

Tools and resources, including skin assessment, Braden Scale, and care plan

[Pressure Injuries & Ulcers Staging](#)



A guidance to help staging pressure ulcers

[Pressure Ulcer Prevention Bundle](#)

Risk assessment, skin care, nutrition, repositioning & mobilization, education