

## Wound Culture Competency

**Provider Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Goal:** The culture is obtained without evidence of contamination, without exposing the patient to any additional pathogens, and without causing discomfort for the patient.

Procedure	Skill Complete	Comments
1. Verify physician order and agency policy for wound culture. Gather necessary supplies.		
2. Identify and explain procedure to patient.		
3. Assess patient for pain. If necessary, administer appropriate analgesic. Allow necessary time for analgesic to achieve its effectiveness before beginning procedure.		
4. Perform hand hygiene and apply appropriate PPE.		
5. Assist patient to a comfortable position that also allows easy access to wound. Expose only wound area. Use a waterproof pad/ barrier under wound site.		
6. Remove and discard old dressing. Note presence, amount, type, color, and odor of any drainage on dressing. Change gloves as appropriate.		
7. Cleanse wound with normal saline, sterile water, or other appropriate agent per physician order or agency policy.		
8. Twist cap to loosen the culturette tube. Keep the swab and inside of the tube sterile.		
9. Carefully insert the swab into the wound. Press and rotate the swab several times over the wound surfaces. Avoid touching the swab to intact skin at the wound edges. Do not culture exudate or slough.		
10. Use new culturette tube for each wound. Label accordingly.		
11. Place swab back in the culture tube. Swab containers may have an ampule of medium that must be crushed to activate when putting the collected specimen back in the tube. Follow manufacturer's directions.		
12. Discard gloves and wash hands. Reapply gloves. Apply new dressing as ordered.		
13. Label the specimen according to your facility guidelines and send to laboratory in a biohazard bag.		
14. Assess and document the appearance of the wound including any pain experienced by the patient.		

**Supervisor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

