

# Wound Culture Competency

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. Disclaimer: Always review and follow agency policy regarding this skill.

Procedure		Skill Complete	Comments
1.	Gather necessary supplies, including one culture tube per wound collecting specimen from.		
2.	Confirm patient ID using two identifiers and explain procedure to patient. Premedicate if indicated and ensure patient's comfort prior to and during the procedure.		
3.	Place a clean, dry barrier on the bedside table or create a sterile field per agency policy. Pour sterile saline into the irrigation tray.		
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. Perform hand hygiene. Apply new gloves.		
7.	Cleanse wound with normal saline, sterile water, or other appropriate agent per physician order or agency policy to remove surface debris. Wipe the surface of the wound with a sterile gauze pad to remove contaminants. Gently blot excess solution from wound bed with dry sterile pad.  Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene.		
8.	Put on new gloves. Open swab specimen collection and transport system. Prepare contents as needed following manufacturer's instructions. Use the culture swab to collect the specimen according to agency policy.		

9.	Carefully insert the swab into the wound. Press and rotate the swab several times over the wound surfaces, apply enough pressure to express fluid from the wound. Avoid touching the swab to intact skin at the wound edges. Do not culture pus, slough, eschar, or necrotic tissue.		
10.	Place swab back in culture tub, labeling accordingly and/or according to facility policy. Swab containers may have an ampule of medium that must be crushed to activate when putting the collected specimen back in the tube. Follow the manufacturer's directions.		
11.	Discard gloves and perform hand hygiene. Reapply gloves. Apply new wound dressing as ordered. Assist the patient to a comfortable position. Ask if they have any questions, thank them for their time.		
12.	Label the specimen according to your facility guidelines (such as name, date, time, location of the wound, and site/source of specimen) and send to laboratory in a biohazard bag.		
13.	Assess and document the appearance of the wound including any pain experienced by the patient.		

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



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