

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
NURSING POLICY MANUAL**

SKIN TEAR MANAGEMENT

Effective Date: 5/2000

Cross Referenced:

Reviewed Date: 10/2010

Revised Date: 6/2015

Policy No: 8620.196a

Origin: Division of Nursing

Authority: Chief Nursing Officer

Page: 1 of 2

SCOPE

All RNs in Inpatient and Outpatient Areas

PURPOSE

To outline the prevention and care of skin tears

DEFINITIONS

Skin tear – inadvertent removal of the epidermis with or without the dermis by mechanical means; i.e. tape removal, electrode removal, assisting in repositioning or mobility can precipitate skin tears.

Category I skin tear- skin edges can be approximated

Category II and III skin tear- partial or complete loss of skin flap

POLICY

The goal is prevention of skin tears by appropriate handling of patient skin at all times and minimizing friction and shearing.

The Payne Martin Classification is use for Skin Tears.

Hospital acquired skin tears require reporting through HERCULES.

PROCEDURE

A. Prevention of skin tears

1. Identify risk factors
2. Moisturize dry skin
3. Provide a safe barrier free environment
4. Careful removal of tape or adhesive patches
5. Gentle handling of patient's skin when repositioning

B. Category I Skin tear

1. Cleanse skin with normal saline
2. Gently dry area by patting skin
3. Approximate skin edges with steri strips
4. Cover with non-adhering dressing such as telfa
5. Leave in place for 3-5 days
6. Remove steri strips when they begin to fall off

C. Category II and III

1. The Cleanse skin with normal saline
2. Gently dry area by patting skin

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3. Apply non-adhering dressing such as xeroform gauze
4. Cover with dressing, secure with gauze if needed
5. Leave in place for 3-5 days
6. Use skin prep before applying tape or adhesive patches.

D. Documentation

1. Document abnormalities in skin condition in the electronic medical record






REFERENCES

Bayard, Ruth a. Mix, Denise P. Acute and Chronic Wounds 4th Edition. Mosby 2012. St Louis Missouri

Appendix:

TABLE 2

Payne-Martin Classification for Skin Tears

Payne-Martin Skin Tear Classification ^{15,16} Skin Tear			Description
Category I: Skin Tears without Tissue Loss	Linear type (full)	Category I skin tear: Linear type	 Linear type (full thickness): epidermis and dermis are pulled in one layer from supporting structures. The wound is incision-like in appearance.
	Flap type (partial thickness)	Category I skin tear: Flap type	 Flap type (partial thickness): epidermis and dermis are separated. Flap can be completely approximated or approximated to expose no more than 1 mm of the dermis.
Category II: Skin Tears with Partial Tissue	Scant tissue loss type	Category II skin tear: < 25%	 Scant tissue loss type: 25% or less of the epidermal flap is lost.
	Moderate to large tissue loss type	Category II skin tear: > 25%	 Moderate to large tissue loss type: more than 25% of the epidermal flap is lost.
Category III: Skin Tears with Complete		Category III skin tear: Complete	 The epidermal flap is absent.