

First Dressings Scheme for use within Nursing Homes in Bedfordshire & Luton

This must be used in conjunction with the Bedfordshire and Luton Wound Management Formulary which is accessible via this link: [Eolas Medical](#)

This is a list of stock dressings that nursing homes should keep to be used as a 'first dressing'. These are purchased and stocked by the home in the same way as homely remedies and the same policies and procedures apply to use and record keeping.

Please refer to the **Homely Remedies Toolkit** for Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes (BLMK) ICB for procedures regarding use and record keeping of homely remedies.

This can be accessed via the Care home page on the BLMK website:

[Care Homes – BLMKCCG Medicines Management \(icb.nhs.uk\)](#)

This means that a nurse can apply an initial dressing to a wound, without the need for a prescription, whilst awaiting a clinical review. This is to enable immediate treatment of a wound only and subsequent dressings are then prescribed following clinical review and assessment. This can include, but not be limited to: first aid to abrasions or tears; initial treatment of pressure ulcers; excoriation of skin; skin trauma; other skin reactions.

Any complex, non-healing wounds should be referred to the Tissue Viability Nursing team.

More serious wounds must be reported for clinical review urgently and are not appropriate for a first dressing approach using the list of stock dressings. This can include, but not be limited to:

- History of head injury / loss of consciousness
- Persistent bleeding
- An injury that may require suturing or tetanus prophylaxis
- Foreign body in wound
- Excessive pain
- Signs of infection or showing signs of spreading infection
- Diabetic feet
- Pressure ulcer (category 3 and 4)
- Deterioration in the wound
- Any other concerns

For management of burns and scalds, refer to: [Management of Scalds and Burns Procedural Document 1.0.pdf](#)

The dressings approved for nursing homes to stock and use as a 'first dressing'* are:

Wound type	Dressing type	Formulary choices
First aid	Soft Polymer dressing	Adaptic Touch®
Exudating	Absorbent dressing	Zetuvit Plus® or KerraMax Care®
Sloughy (yellow)	Hydrofibre	Kerracel® or UrgoClean®
Epithelialising (pink) Granulating (red)	Foam dressing	Suprasorb P sensitive (border and non border) or Tegaderm®
	Surgical tape	Clinipore®
	Light weight conforming bandage	K-band®

*Dressing choice MUST be made in conjunction with Bedfordshire and Luton Wound Management Formulary, available: [Eolas Medical](#)