

Fistula Dressing Change Checklist Example

Key Element	Description	Yes/No
60 minutes prior to device change	Notify surgical team that wound will be available for exam.	
	Plan for 30-45 minutes for the dressing change.	
	Consider administration of pain medication and/or anti-anxiety medication as prescribed by treating physician.	
	Consider bowel anti-motility agent (e.g. Imodium®, opium tincture).	
	Consider holding food and oral fluids and/or early morning change before breakfast.	
15 minutes prior to device change	Identify second staff member to assist.	
	Consider application of topical anesthetic (e.g. 4% topical lidocaine elixir). Infuse into current dressing or lay on wound edges with gauze as prescribed by treating physician.	
	Evaluate current wound filler/fistula and align with goals of therapy. Example: AWD, NPWT, gauze, alginate	
	COLLECT NEEDED SUPPLIES (e.g. Fistula Solution® isolation device, wound care dressing supplies, Yankauer suction or other method to collect effluent during dressing application/ change, skin prep, hydrocolloid, contact layer, pouching system.) Consider image documentation of dressing procedure per facility protocol.	
Removal of existing dressing	Pouching system: - Empty, remove and dispose of per facility protocol - Suction for collection of effluent during dressing application/change	
	Gently remove existing dressing and dispose of per facility protocol.	
	Examine removed dressing. - Take photo if needed. Confirm patient consent for photography prior to photo. - Identify any areas of leaking	
Wound bed	Examine wound bed. - Take photo if needed. Confirm patient consent for photography prior to photo. - Measure and document length, width and depth, tunnels and undermining	
Replace dressing	Replace dressing per facility protocol. Provide communication regarding dressing application considerations or unique circumstances for next practitioner to change the dressing.	
Consider 24-hour quick check	Remove dressing and dispose of per facility protocol. Assess the wound bed.	
	Replace with a new dressing for a standard wear time.	