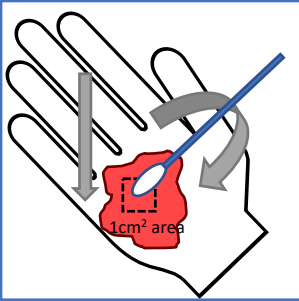


How to Collect a Wound Culture

Culture wound *prior* to initiation of antibiotics if signs or symptoms of infection are present

Wound Care	
_____1.	Confirm resident identity and explain the procedure.
_____2.	Prepare clean work surface by cleaning the surface with disinfectant wipe following manufacturer's guidelines. Put down surface barrier (e.g. Chux pad).
_____3.	Ensure all necessary supplies are assembled and arranged for cleaning the wound, obtaining a specimen, and redressing the wound. Place supplies on surface barrier in aseptic manner.
_____4.	Perform hand hygiene, and don clean gloves. Consider use of surgical mask for all wound care.
_____5.	Remove wound dressing. Dispose of gloves and dressing. Perform hand hygiene.
_____6.	Don clean gloves. Rinse wound with normal saline. Gently wipe excess saline with sterile gauze pad.
_____7.	Remove soiled gloves, perform hand hygiene, and don clean gloves.
Wound Culture (using aseptic non-touch technique)	
_____8.	Aseptically pour a small amount of normal saline over the cotton swab to moisten it.
_____9.	Levine Technique recommended for culture collection: Identify 1cm ² of clean wound tissue. Rotate applicator for 5 seconds while applying enough pressure to produce fluid from the wound tissue. *Do not take specimen from exudate, eschar, or necrotic material. *Do not let the sterile swab touch gloves or other objects.
_____10.	Insert swab immediately into sterile container. Avoid contaminating specimen.
	
Wound Dressing	
_____11.	Doff gloves. Perform hand hygiene, put on clean or sterile gloves that are appropriate for the technique required to complete the dressing change.
_____12.	Perform dressing change using aseptic non-touch technique.
_____13.	Dispose of materials as appropriate. Doff gloves and perform hand hygiene. Don clean gloves.
Specimen Handling	
_____14.	Label specimen collection tube with patient name, date of birth, source, and date of collection.
_____15.	Place specimen in biohazard transport bag. Clean work surface. Perform hand hygiene.
_____16.	Refrigerate specimens until ready for packaging and shipping.

Reference: Baranoski, S., & Ayello E. A. (2015). *Wound Care Essentials: Practice Principles* (4th ed.). Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.
 Stotts, N. A. (2016). Wound infection: diagnosis and management. In R. Bryant, & D. Nix (Eds.), *Acute and Chronic Wounds: Current Management Concepts* (pp.283—294). Elsevier Mosby.