

South West Yorkshire Joint Wound Management Formulary Group

Wound Care Top Tips Bulletin Two

Barrier Film Products

What are they?

A liquid barrier film that dries quickly to form a breathable, transparent coating on the skin.

The current formulary product is MediDerma-S, available as a 1ml applicator, 2g sachet and pump spray.

This bulletin excludes zinc oxide based creams which are not recommended products e.g. Sudocrem, because they are not waterproof and they reduce the effectiveness of incontinence products.

Why do we use them?

- They assist in the prevention of skin damage from moisture.
- As part of treatment plans for incontinence associated dermatitis/ moisture lesions.
- To reduce risk of skin stripping under adhesive dressings if alternative approach not suitable e.g. soft silicone.

Do's and Don'ts

Do use sparingly. They are designed to work with the minimum amount of product.

Do refer to the manufacturers' guidelines as there are differences between the application frequencies e.g. liquid film can be reapplied every 24-72 hours whereas barrier creams can be used between washes up to 3 times a day; maybe suitable to use on broken skin but refer to manufacturers' instructions.

Do include in a care plan that focuses on the prevention of skin damage or in a holistic treatment plan e.g. incontinence management.

Do not use for pressure ulcer prevention where no moisture is present or a risk of moisture damage.

Do not use where there is a fungal or bacterial skin infection present.

This bulletin has been produced by the South West Yorkshire Joint Wound Management Formulary Group on behalf of NHS Calderdale CCG, NHS North Kirklees CCG, NHS Greater Huddersfield CCG, NHS Wakefield CCG, Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust, Mid Yorks Hospital Trust, Local Community Partnerships, Spectrum Community Health CIC, South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

The group consists of Tissue Viability Nurses, District and Hospital Nurses, Pharmacists, Pharmacy Technicians and Podiatrists.

Updated May 2016 – Review Date May 2018