Wound Management Special Issue

Wound Management Formulary

The Wound Management Formulary was developed by the Forth Valley Wound Management Group (WMG), which is composed of multidisciplinary practitioners including specialist nurses, nurses from both acute and primary care and pharmacy input.

The NHS FV Wound Management Formulary aims to:

• rationalise and standardise use of wound care products
• encourage seamless care
• act as a resource to assist all staff involved in the selection of appropriate dressings

The NHS FV Wound Management Formulary was revised last year and can be accessed on the NHS FV Quality Improvement Clinical Guidelines webpage:

Or http://tinyurl.com/FVWoundFormulary
(also via the Clinical Resources > Clinical Guidelines Quick Link on the Intranet homepage)

Clinical practice within the wound care field is an evolving area and the formulary will be reviewed on an ongoing basis if new evidence or information becomes available which would encourage the group to review the product selection. Following a recent national procurement exercise, the WMG are reviewing some formulary sections and any revisions will be disseminated shortly.

Tissue Viability Team
Contact Details

Please contact the Tissue Viability Team based at Falkirk Community Hospital for any advice or guidance required around wound management prescribing.

Telephone Number: 01324 673747

Care Homes Ordering of Dressings

Patients resident in Care Homes should be prescribed dressings from the Forth Valley formulary. To try to improve prescribing in this group of patients, a form has been developed for use by care homes when ordering prescriptions for dressings (available from Kelly Johnston. 01786-431200 or Kellyjohnston@nhs.net

GP practices should only accept requests for prescriptions for dressings from Care Homes if they are written on the correct form.

Wound Formulary Work in Clackmannan

The community nursing team in Clackmannanshire have taken a proactive approach to try and encourage use of the wound formulary and management of the quantities of dressings requested and prescribed.

They have done this using a variety of approaches which include:

• Protected time to attend education.
• Brainstorming sessions on prescribing and open discussions around products on the formulary, which have included a quiz on product costs to increase understanding of the large price differentials between some product groups and formulary products.
• Repeated amnesty of non formulary products.
• Treatment room cupboards to contain only wound formulary products.
Silver Dressings

One current focus within wound management is to reduce the inappropriate usage of antimicrobial dressings, particularly products containing silver.

The use of silver dressings in Forth Valley was escalating in previous years accounting for almost 20% of the total expenditure on wound care products. However in the last year this spend has reduced substantially.

Everyone involved in this reduction is to be commended. However the following advice should continue to be followed.

The National Prescribing Centre MeReC Bulletin (Vol 21. No. 1, June 2010) looked at the full evidence base for advanced wound dressings for chronic wounds in primary care and concluded that there is no robust clinical evidence that dressings containing silver are more effective than unmedicated dressings for the prevention or treatment of wound infection.

The Forth Valley Wound Formulary only includes 3 silver containing products:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Formulary Product</th>
<th>Dressing Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aquacel AG®</td>
<td>A hydrofibre dressing impregnated with silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actisorb Silver®</td>
<td>An activated charcoal dressing impregnated with silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flamazine® Cream</td>
<td>An antibacterial cream containing 1%w/w silver sulfadiazide used primarily to treat infected burns</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key Messages for Silver Dressings:
- The routine use of silver dressings is not justified on clinical or cost-effectiveness grounds within NHS Forth Valley
- Only use the products on the FV Wound Management Formulary
- Reassess wounds regularly

PRISMS Wound Dressing Formulary Compliance Reports

All GP practices are now being provided with a quarterly report on the prescribing of dressings within the practice. This highlights the list of non-formulary products which have been prescribed.

The recent January to March 2012 prescribing report highlighted that there is still room for improvement with formulary compliance as only 58.6% of all wound management products were prescribed from the formulary. The main non-formulary products being used include Mepitel®, Mepilex®, Allevyn Gentle® and Sorbion Sachets®. Any prescribing/requests for prescribing of non-formulary wound products from District Nurses should be accompanied by a correctly completed and authorised Non-Formulary Dressing Request Form (available in Appendix 5 of the Wound Management Formulary).

Practices are encouraged to share Wound Dressings Formulary reports widely within the Primary Care Team to ensure all those involved in dressings management are aware of their prescribing behaviour.