




## Skin and Wound Product Information Sheet

### Silver Nitrate (AgNO<sub>3</sub>) Sticks

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Cautery Agent – Silver Nitrate</b>	
<b>Key Points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A combination of 75% Silver Nitrate and 25% Potassium Nitrate; an effective antibacterial cautery agent</li> </ul>	
<b>Indications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For removal of hypergranulation tissue (proud flesh)</li> <li>• For removal of granulomas e.g. stoma mucocutaneous margin</li> <li>• To open rolled wound edges (epibole)</li> <li>• As a hemostatic agent for small bleeds.</li> </ul>	
<b>Precautions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consult a Physician, NP, NSWOC/Wound Clinician prior to use</li> <li>• Consider medication for pain management either before or after treatment and treatment should be stop is client complains of pain</li> </ul>	
<b>Contraindications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sensitivity or allergy to silver</li> </ul>	
<b>Formats &amp; Sizes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sticks                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 15cm</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Application Directions</b>		<b>Rationale</b>
<p>Cleanse the wound and peri-wound skin with sterile normal saline or agency approved wound cleanser; blot the wound bed to remove excess moisture.</p>		
<p>Apply a skin protectant e.g., petroleum jelly to peri-wound skin or No-Sting skin-prep for peri-ostomy prior to the application.</p>		<p>Protects intact skin from chemical damage.</p>
<b>To Apply</b>		
<p>Check the tip of the stick to ensure it is covered with Silver Nitrate.</p> <p>If there is enough moisture in the wound then use the stick dry; if not, then moisten the tip of the silver nitrate stick with sterile water.</p> <p>Usually 2 minutes of application is sufficient but if the area is very moist then the amount of Silver Nitrate will be used up more quickly. It may be necessary to use more than one stick to ensure good coverage of the Silver Nitrate onto the tissue. The newly burnt skin tissue will appear a gray-ish colour.</p> <p>Ensure the peri-wound/surrounding skin is not touched with the stick.</p> <p><u>Application for hypergranulation tissue (proud flesh) or granuloma:</u> apply, using <u>firm</u> pressure on the area, rolling the stick back/forth to cover the entire area of concern.</p> <p><u>Application for rolled wound edges:</u> apply firm pressure (in a rolling motion) to the length of the rolled (epibole) edge.</p> <p><u>Application as a hemostatic agent:</u> use firm pressure over the site of the bleed.</p>		<p>The Silver Nitrate may have been rubbed off while the stick has been in the container.</p> <p>Moistening the tip will activate the silver nitrate. Do not use normal saline to moist the tip as this will diminish the effectiveness of the silver nitrate.</p> <p>As hypergranulation tissue is friable the application of pressure may cause a small amount of bleeding; the silver nitrate will help to stop the bleeding.</p> <p>The tissue is chemically burnt away.</p>
<p>Following treatment, gently cleanse the treated area with normal saline dampened gauze.</p> <p>For hypergranulation tissue/granulomas: apply a dressing which will support a less moist wound environment.</p> <p>For small bleeds: cover with a dressing which will support hemostasis.</p>		<p>Increased moisture in the wound bed support the formation of hypergranulation tissue.</p>



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<b>Frequency of Dressing Change</b>	
<p>Repeat the application every 1-2 days for 5-7 days until the hypergranulation tissue/granuloma is level with the surrounding skin.</p> <p>Repeat the application every 2-3 days until the wound edge is opened (may take a few weeks).</p> <p>Only one application for the control of bleeding should be needed.</p>	
<b>Expected Outcome</b>	
<p>Hypergranulation tissue (proud flesh) or granuloma will be reduced.</p> <p>Rolled wound edge (epibole) will be opened.</p> <p>Small bleed is resolved.</p>	
<b>For further information, please contact your NSWOC/Wound Clinician.</b>	