



Additional Education Requirements & Competencies

Licensed Practical Nurses – Care of Wounds with a Non-Visible Wound Bed

Indications for Use of this Document:

- This document is used in partnership with the online course in Learning Hub *Additional Education Requirements Licensed Practical Nurses – Care of Wounds with a Non-Visible Wound Bed*, to support Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) who are required and supported to probe, cleanse, irrigate, pack or dress a wound with a non-visible wound bed as a part of their unit specific practice.

British Columbia Nursing Practice Level

- LPNs must:
 1. Be knowledgeable of their Health Authority/Agency policies and standards of practice,
 2. Successfully complete additional education^{1,3},
 3. Follow decision support tools¹, and
 4. Follow a client specific wound treatment plan.
- Each LPN is responsible and accountable to maintain their competency and repeat the additional education as required.

Pre-requisites for Licensed Practical Nurses – Care of Wounds with a Non-Visible Wound Bed education:

- Completed Basic Wound Care education as defined by the Health Authority/ Agency.
- Completed the following courses on Learning Hub from the Wound Management for Nurses – Provincial Curriculum (Online):
 - Chapter 2a: How Wounds Heal
 - Chapter 2b: Wound Assessment
 - Chapter 2c: Wound Cleansing
 - Chapter 2d: Wound Packing
- Read the provincial decision support tools (guidelines and procedures) related to probing, cleansing, irrigating, packing and dressing wounds with a non-visible wound bed:
 - Guideline: Wound Management for Adults & Children
 - Procedure: Wound Cleansing
 - Procedure: Wound Packing
 - Documentation Guideline: Wound Assessment and Treatment Flow Sheet (WATFS)
- Review any related Health Authority / Agency policies, procedures, guidelines or practice standards.

Learning Plan

The learning plan in this document will assist the learner in acquiring the knowledge and skills to care for wounds with a non-visible wound bed and includes:

- Reviewing the appropriate decision support tools to obtain the theory and build on entry-level competencies.
- Completing the competency checklist to demonstrate the acquired knowledge, and skills for competency for probing, cleansing, irrigating, packing and dressing wounds by:
 - Verbalizing the theory related to practice.
 - Obtaining clinical experience.
 - Demonstrating skills.
- Demonstrating knowledge competency by completing a competency quiz on Learning Hub.
- Completing any additional competency validation requirements of your Health Authority / Agency.

Definitions:

Additional Education Requirements (AERs) - Structured education (e.g., a workshop, course or program of study) designed so that nurses can attain the competencies required to carry out a specific activity as part of nursing practice. Additional education builds on the entry-level competencies of the nurse, identifies the competencies expected of the nurse, includes both knowledge and skill to practice and includes an objective evaluation of the nurses' competency by a nursing mentor¹.

Competency - The integration and application of knowledge, skills and judgment required for safe and appropriate performance in an individual's practice¹.

Non-visible wound bed – A wound bed that cannot be clearly visualized due to the presence of undermining, sinus tracts or tunnels.

Nursing Mentor - A Clinical Nurse Educator, Nurse Specialized in Wound, Ostomy & Continence (NSWOC), Wound Clinician or designated RN, RPN, LPN competent in the skill being demonstrated.

Sinus/tunnel – A channel that extends from any part of the wound and tracks into deeper tissue.²

Undermining – A destruction of tissue that occurs underneath the intact skin of the wound perimeter.²

References:

1. British Columbia College of Nurses & Midwives (2023). *Scope of practice for licensed practical nurses*. <https://www.bccnm.ca/LPN/ScopePractice/Pages/Default.aspx>.
2. BC Provincial Nursing Skin and Wound Committee. (2011). *Documentation Guideline: Wound Assessment and Treatment Flow Sheet*. Retrieved from <https://www.clwk.ca/get-resource/wound-assessment-documentation-guide-portrait/>.

Document Creation/Review

Created By:	British Columbia Provincial Nursing Skin & Wound Committee and NSWOCs/Wound Clinicians from across all Health Authorities.
Publication Date	December 2018
Revision Date(s)	February 2019, July 2020, September 2020, April 2023, December 2025
Review Dates(s)	

<h2 style="text-align: center;">Learning Plan</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">LPN – Care of Wounds with a Non-Visible Wound Bed</h3>		
Learning Activity	Resources	Date Done
<p>Pre-requisite:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the 4 basic wound bed management learning modules on Learning Hub located in the Wound Management for Nurses – Provincial Curriculum (Online). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 2a: How Wounds Heal • Chapter 2b: Wound Assessment • Chapter 2c: Wound Cleansing • Chapter 2d: Wound Packing 	
<p>Pre-requisite:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the provincial decision support tools (guidelines and procedures) related to probing, cleansing, irrigating, packing and dressing wounds with a non-visible wound bed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guideline: Wound Management for Adults & Children • Procedure: Wound Cleansing • Procedure: Wound Packing • Documentation Guideline: Wound Assessment & Treatment Flow Sheet (WATFS) 	
<p>Pre-requisite:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete any other basic wound care education as identified by your HA/Agency. 	Discuss with your Clinical Educator/Nurse Mentor.	
<p>Review any additional HA / Agency specific policies, procedures, guidelines or practice standards for probing, cleansing, irrigating, packing and dressing wounds with a non-visible wound bed.</p>	Discuss with your Clinical Educator/Nurse Mentor.	
<p>Complete the competency quiz in the Learning Hub course <i>Licensed Practical Nurses – Care of Wounds with a Non-Visible Wound Bed</i> competency quiz in Learning Hub.</p> <p>Note: A score of 100% is required for course completion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 2e. Additional Education Requirements: Licensed Practical Nurses - Care of Wounds with a Non-Visible Wound Bed 	
<p>Complete the <i>Licensed Practical Nurses – Care of Wounds with a Non-Visible Wound Bed Competency Checklists</i>, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbalization of theory • Simulated clinical experience, if available, for probing, cleansing, irrigating, packing and dressing wounds with a non-visible wound bed with the support of a nursing mentor competent in this skill. • Demonstration of skill to show the nurse's competency related to the care of wounds with a non-visible wound bed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The number of successful demonstrations required will be mutually determined through a collaborative discussion with the Nursing Mentor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See page 4 of the document • This can be done using props or wound models with the supplies and equipment available at your site. 	
<p>Complete the Competency Confirmation in the Learning Hub course <i>Licensed Practical Nurses – Care of Wounds with a Non-Visible Wound Bed</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 2e. Additional Education Requirements: Licensed Practical Nurses - Care of Wounds with a Non-Visible Wound Bed 	
Complete any additional competency validation requirements of your Health Authority / Agency.		

Competency Checklist LPN – Care of Wounds with a Non-Visible Wound Bed		
Competency	Date Met	Mentor's Initials
Knowledge		
1. Describes the indications, precautions, and contraindications for care of a non-visible wound bed.		
2. Describes the correct methods of assessment and management of wounds with known and unknown endpoints.		
3. Describes the purposes for wound packing/filling.		
4. Describes the wounds that should not be irrigated.		
5. Describe situations which requires communication to an NSWOC/Wound Clinician or Physician/NP		
Skill for assessment (demonstrations can be done either at the 'bedside' or in simulation)		
1. Assembles required equipment and supplies as per wound treatment plan.		
2. Sets up dressing tray using appropriate aseptic technique.		
3. If required, dons personal protective equipment.		
4. Performs hand hygiene appropriately throughout the procedure.		
5. Positions client appropriately for procedure.		
6. Removes cover dressing and wound filler/packing appropriately.		
7. Probes undermining, sinus/tunnels areas to determine length and direction of wound.		
8. Identifies whether undermining, sinus/ tunnel have a known or unknown endpoint and follows appropriate procedure.		
Skills if able to probe to end of wound:		
1. Cleanses non-visible wound bed appropriately using wound irrigation tip or catheter device.		
2. Ensures that all irrigation fluid is removed.		
3. Cleanses the wound bed appropriately.		
4. Cleanses the peri-wound skin appropriately.		
5. Performs wound assessment appropriately.		
6. Packs wound, undermining, sinus/tunnel appropriately.		
7. Applies appropriate dressing.		
Skills if unable to probe to end of wound:		
If opportunity does not exist to demonstrate this skill, have learner explain procedure to be followed.		
1. Cleanses only the visible part of the wound bed. Does not irrigate the undermining, sinuses/tunnels.		
2. Cleanses the peri-wound skin appropriately.		
3. Performs wound assessment appropriately.		
4. Applies appropriate dressing to visible portion of the wound.		
5. Notifies Physician/NP re: inability to probe to the end of the undermining, sinus/tunnel.		

Nurse

Print Name _____ Signature _____ Date: _____

Nurse Mentor

Print Name _____ Signature _____ Initials _____

Learning Plan for Unmet Skills: