

# Burns Dressing - Acticoat™

Burns are a common presentation to the emergency department. It is important that the correct dressings are utilised when managing a burn. All burns must be cleansed prior to dressing. Please see the [Burn Cleansing Skill Sheet](#) for more information on cleaning regimes. Ensure that the appropriate comfort measures are planned for and utilised prior to commencing any burns management. This might include pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions. Remember to check for allergies prior to commencement. Acticoat™ is a common product made by Smith and Nephew that is utilised for the paediatric population. Acticoat™ lasts 3 days, whereas the Acticoat 7™ product lasts for seven days. Please also consider the manufacturers instructions. Please see the [Burns Dressing - Hands](#) for attending dressings to these areas.

Information contained in this skill sheet is based on the recommendation of the Queensland Children's Hospital Burns Service. There may be slight variations in practice, depending on factors that influence burns care at each site. Please refer to your local tertiary burns service for more information. For sites Mackay and north this will be Townsville University Hospital. For the Gold Coast, this will be Gold Coast University Hospital.

## 1 GATHER EQUIPMENT

Ensure you have the correct dressing for the duration required.



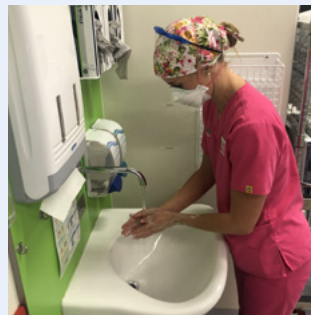
## 2 PREPARE

Ensure that the Acticoat™ and Mepitel® dressing packets are intact and not expired.



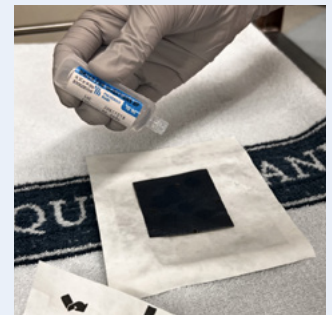
## 3

Perform hand hygiene and don gloves. A handwash of 10-15 seconds is sufficient.



## 4

Open Acticoat™ and wet with water. DO NOT use normal saline.



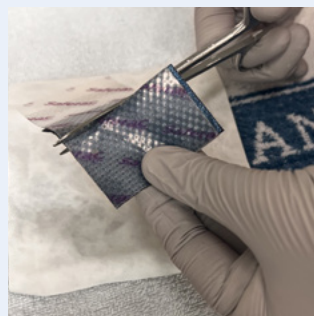
## 5

Open Mepitel® and remove plastic on one side. Stick the mepitel to the BLUE side of the Acticoat™.



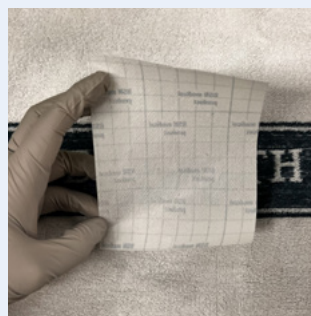
## 6

Cut dressing to size, leaving at least 1cm overhang outside the burn surface area.



## 7

Cut non-woven fabric tape to size, to allow adherence of dressing to burn.



## 8

Remove the plastic from the other side of the Mepitel®.





## ALERT

Only prepare Acticoat™ dressing immediately prior to attending wound care, as to maintain the integrity of the product.

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### PROCEDURE

Cleanse the wound as per the ["Burn Cleansing" skill sheet](#).



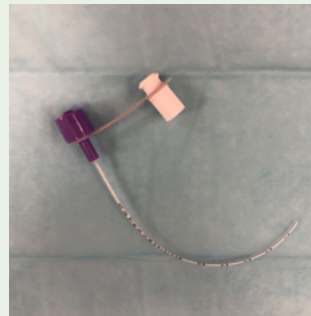
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Place the Mepitel® and Acticoat dressing on burn. Remember: "BLUE to BURN, SILVER to SKY".



11

Cut irrigation tube (eg. enfit 5FR NG tubes) to a length that will enable access. There should be 1 irrigation tube for every 10cm<sup>2</sup> dressing.



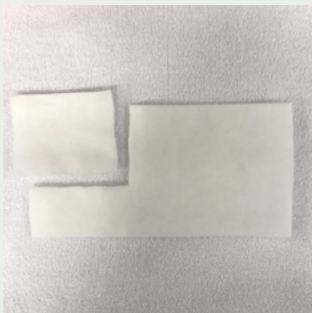
12

With non-woven adhesive fabric tape, secure end of cut NG tube to the centre of the dressing.



13

Measure and cut the Melolite™ dressing to cover Acticoat™ and apply non-adherent side to patient.



14

Secure non-adherent absorbant dressing with more non-woven adhesive fabric tape. Ensure that port is secured gently over absorbant dressing to prevent pressure.



15

Cover with tubular bandage.



### Tips

If there are multiple areas of burn close together that require dressing, you may cover the entire area with the Acticoat™. The dressing will not harm the uninjured skin.

Some dressing regimes will vary from the typical Mepitel®, Acticoat™ and Melolite. It is important to be clear of the care plan prior to commencing.

## Documentation

Ensure that adequate documentation is completed including:

- Appearance of wound
- Effectiveness of analgesia and diversion therapy
- Location of wound
- Type of dressing



## Education

Ensure that carer goes home with the [Acticoat™ Fact Sheet](#) (QH only) and that the fact sheet is explained prior to discharge.

Provide carers with the equipment they need to provide irrigation to the wound, including a 2mL syringe that is compatible with the irrigation port, extra non-woven fabric tape and sterile water if the household water source is a tank or a bore.

Irrigation information:

- Irrigate wound with 1-2mL clean water through each irrigation port three times a day to continue to activate the silver. Tank or bore water should not be used.
- If the dressing becomes dripping wet during irrigation, reduce the volume of water used to irrigate.

General key points:

- Surrounding dressing to remain dry. Do not wet during bathing.
- Acticoat should remain moist.
- Child is not to go near sand, dirt or water.
- Signs of toxic shock syndrome. Any temperatures, rash, diarrhoea, vomiting, decreased oral intake should prompt a return to hospital for review.

## Referral & Follow Up

All burns in paediatric patients must be followed up by the relevant paediatric burns service. Ensure a referral is made prior to discharging the patient.

Please contact the Surgical/Burns Registrar via hospital switch for each referring health service along with photos and referral to below email address.

- **For sites including and north of Mackay contact Townsville University Hospital:**  
**BurnsNQ@health.qld.gov.au**
- **For sites including and south of the Gold Coast contact Gold Coast University Hospital:**  
**email GCHChildburns@health.qld.gov.au and complete Blue Slip referral**
- **For all other sites contact Queensland Children's Hospital:**  
**burns-opd@health.qld.gov.au**

## For further information:

[Skill Sheet: Burn Cleaning](#)

[Skill Sheet: Burns Dressing - Hands](#)

[Skill Sheet: Burns Dressing - Mepilex® Ag](#)

## References:

This Queensland Paediatric Emergency Skill Sheet was developed by the Emergency Care of Children working group (funded by the Queensland Emergency Department Strategic Advisory Panel) with the help of the following:

Queensland Children's Hospital Burns Department.

Children's Health Queensland. (2021, March 18). Nursing Standard: Burns - Acticoat™ Dressing. Accessed 21 February, 2022 from [https://qheps.health.qld.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0026/722933/ns\\_o6811.pdf](https://qheps.health.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0026/722933/ns_o6811.pdf)

Children's Health Queensland. (2021, April 6). Management of a paediatric burn patient. Accessed 21 February, 2022 from <https://www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/PDF/guidelines/gdl-paediatric-burns.pdf>

Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service. (August, 2020). Paediatric Burns Referral and Management. Retrieved June 14, 2022 from <https://gchweb.sth.health.qld.gov.au/documents/GL1949>

Smith & Nephew. (n.d.) Acticoat 7. Retrieved March 7, 2022 from <https://www.smith-nephew.com/professional/products/advanced-wound-management/acticoat/acticoat-7/>



## Skill Sheet Legal Disclaimer

The information contained in these Queensland Paediatric Emergency Care skill sheets is for information purposes only. It was developed to inform emergency nursing care, but can also be applied by other clinicians acting within their scope of practice. The information has been prepared using a multidisciplinary approach with reference to the best information and evidence available at the time of preparation. No representation, warranty or assurance is given that the information is entirely complete, current, or accurate in every respect. The skill sheets are not a substitute for clinical judgement, knowledge and expertise, or medical advice. Variation from the skill sheets, taking into account individual circumstances may be appropriate. This does not address all elements of standard practice and accepts that individual clinicians are responsible for the following:

- Providing care within the context of locally available resources, expertise, and scope of practice.
- Supporting consumer rights and informed decision making in partnership with healthcare practitioners including the right to decline intervention or ongoing management.

- Advising consumers of their choices in an environment that is culturally appropriate and which enables comfortable and confidential discussion. This includes the use of interpreter services where necessary.
- Ensuring informed consent is obtained prior to delivering care.
- Meeting all legislative requirements and professional standards.
- Applying standard precautions, and additional precautions as necessary, when delivering care.
- Documenting all care in accordance with mandatory and local requirements.

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