

Burns Dressing - Mepilex® Ag

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 dressing. This might include pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions. Remember to check for allergies prior to commencement. Mepilex® Ag is a common product made by Molnlycke Health Care that is utilised for the paediatric population. Please also consider the manufacturers instructions.

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 Mepilex® Ag dressing packet is intact and not expired.



3

Perform hand hygiene. An aseptic clinical handwash of 60 seconds is sufficient.



4

Cut the Mepilex® Ag dressing to mimic the shape of the wound, with at least 1cm overhang.



5

Cut the hypafix (or similar) to size to enable the securement of the Mepilex® Ag.



6

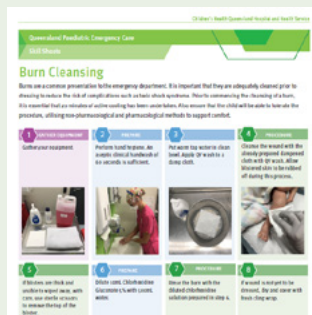
If the burn is on a limb, cut tubular bandage to size. This will also help secure the dressing.



7

PROCEDURE

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



8

Peel the plastic from the Mepilex® Ag dressing.





ALERT

Refer to your local policy for guidance on monitoring requirements during procedures.

9

Place the Mepilex® Ag on the burn sticky side down.



10

Secure dressing with non-woven fabric tape.



11

If burn is on a limb, further secure the dressing with a light tubular bandage.



Tip

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

Education

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

Key points:

- Dressing to remain dry. Do not wet during bathing.
- 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.

Documentation

Ensure that adequate documentation is completed including:

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



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 Cleansing](#)

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

[Skill Sheet: Burns Dressing - Acticoat™](#)

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 resources:

Children's Health Queensland. (2021, March 18). Burns - Mepilex® Ag Dressing. Accessed 21 February, 2022 from https://qheps.health.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0029/706565/proc_06001.

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>

Molnlycke Health Care AB. (2021). Mepilex® Ag. Accessed 31 March 2022 from <https://www.molnlycke.com.au/products-solutions/mepilex-ag/>.

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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