

PocketEd

Debridement



Debridement is the removal of devitalized/necrotic tissue and foreign matter from a wound to facilitate the healing process. Since devitalized tissue acts as a mechanical block to wound closure and harbors bacteria, debridement of this tissue is important to reduce bacterial load and clear the mechanical block.

TYPES OF DEBRIDEMENT

Autolytic

Use of moisture-retentive dressings to cover a wound and allow devitalized tissue to self-digest by the action of enzymes present in wound fluid.

Enzymatic

The topical application of enzymes to breakdown devitalized tissue.

Chemical

The topical application of various substances to breakdown devitalized tissue.

Mechanical

The removal of foreign material & devitalized or contaminated tissue from a wound by physical, rather than by enzymatic or autolytic means.

Sharp or Surgical

Removal of foreign material or devitalized tissue by surgical instruments.

Biological

The application of medical maggots to remove devitalized tissue.

Debridement and Dressing Reimbursement

Dressings are only reimbursed by Medicare when a wound meets their qualification criteria.

A qualifying wound is defined as either of the following:

- A wound caused by, or treated by, a surgical procedure; or,
- After debridement of the wound, regardless of the debridement technique.

The surgical procedure or debridement must be performed by a physician or other healthcare professional to the extent permissible under State law.

Note: Any form of debridement qualifies a wound for dressing reimbursement. But, as with all care, this therapeutic intervention *must* be documented in the patient's chart.

Debridement Documentation Examples

Autolytic: [Dressing type] ordered/applied to promote autolytic debridement.

Enzymatic: Collagenase ordered/applied to enzymatically debride non-viable tissue.

Chemical: Silver nitrate applied to debride devitalized tissue.

Sharp: Sharp debridement of stringy, yellow slough performed at bedside with scissors and scalpel. No bleeding or adverse reactions noted.

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