

Hydrocolloid Dressing

Information for Parents

Hydrocolloid dressings work by making a gel with the fluid from the wound. The centre of the dressing may become soft – this is normal. When the dressing is removed, there may be an unpleasant smell and the wound covered in a brown liquid. This is also normal.

Care of the dressing

The dressing should be left undisturbed unless a nurse has told you otherwise. It may be left for up to 7 days. It is waterproof, does not slip and does not necessarily need a bandage over the top, unless you think your child is likely to pull it off.

Your child may have a bath or shower, but swimming is not advised.

Coming to the Plastic Dressing Clinic (PDC)

If you are given a spare dressing to take home with you, you will be shown how to apply it. Please bring the unused dressings with you to each clinic. When the wound is healed please return any dressings you have not used.

Please note: If fluid leaks from the edge of the dressing it needs to be replaced.

You may remove the dressing and give your child a bath or shower. Dry the surrounding skin only, not the wound, and apply a new dressing as shown.

Contact Telephone Numbers

You can telephone for advice from the PDC Nurse Specialist

– **0131 312 1531**, 8am - 3.30pm Mon-Fri.

Or, at other times, telephone Emergency Department, Royal Hospital for Children and Young People – **0131 312 0007**

Royal Hospital for Children and Young People
50 Little France Crescent
Edinburgh EH16 4TJ
Tel.: **0131 536 1000**

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