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Professional Certificate in Minor Injuries and Illness

# Wound Care and Management

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## Wound Care and Management Glossary

**Wound Care and Management:** The process of assessing, treating, and monitoring wounds to promote healing and prevent complications.

**Abscess:** A collection of pus that forms in tissues, organs, or spaces within the body as a result of infection.

**Acute Wound:** A wound that typically heals within a predictable timeframe, such as a cut or surgical incision.

**Alginate Dressing:** A type of wound dressing made from seaweed extract that forms a gel when in contact with wound exudate, promoting a moist wound environment.

**Antimicrobial Dressing:** A type of wound dressing that contains agents designed to reduce or prevent microbial colonization of the wound.

**Biofilm:** A complex structure formed by bacteria that can adhere to the surface of a wound, making it difficult to treat.

**Chronic Wound:** A wound that fails to progress through the normal stages of wound healing within an expected timeframe, often due to underlying medical conditions.

**Compression Therapy:** The use of compression bandages or garments to improve circulation and reduce swelling in patients with venous ulcers or lymphedema.

**Debridement:** The removal of dead or damaged tissue from a wound to promote healing.

**Exudate:** Fluid that oozes from a wound, containing proteins, cells, and other substances.

**Foam Dressing:** A type of wound dressing made from polyurethane foam that absorbs exudate and maintains a moist wound environment.

**Granulation Tissue:** New tissue that forms during the healing process, composed of blood vessels, fibroblasts, and collagen.

**Hydrocolloid Dressing:** A type of wound dressing that forms a gel when in contact with wound exudate, providing a moist environment for healing.

**Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy:** A treatment in which patients breathe pure oxygen in a pressurized chamber to promote wound healing.

**Incision:** A surgical cut made in the skin or other tissue.

**Infection:** The invasion and multiplication of microorganisms in body tissues, leading to inflammation and tissue damage.

**Laceration:** A jagged or irregular tear in the skin caused by trauma.

**Necrosis:** Death of cells or tissues within a living organism.

**Negative Pressure Wound Therapy:** A treatment in which a vacuum dressing is applied to a wound to promote healing and remove excess fluid.

**Pressure Ulcer:** A localized injury to the skin and/or underlying tissue, usually over a bony prominence, as a result of pressure or pressure in combination with shear.

**Primary Intention Healing:** Wound healing that occurs when the edges of a wound are close together and can be easily approximated, such as a surgical incision.

**Secondary Intention Healing:** Wound healing that occurs when a wound is left open to heal from the bottom up, such as a pressure ulcer.

**Serous Fluid:** A clear, watery fluid that can be found in wounds, containing proteins, electrolytes, and nutrients.

**Skin Tear:** A traumatic wound caused by shearing, friction, or blunt force that separates the layers of the skin.

**Sterile Technique:** A set of practices used to prevent contamination of wounds and maintain asepsis during wound care procedures.

**Sutures:** Stitches used to hold the edges of a wound together during healing.

**Topical Antimicrobial:** An agent applied directly to the skin to prevent or treat wound infections.

**Wound Assessment:** The process of evaluating a wound's size, depth, appearance, and surrounding tissue to determine the appropriate treatment plan.

**Wound Bed:** The base of a wound where new tissue forms during the healing process.

**Wound Closure:** The process of bringing the edges of a wound together to promote healing and reduce the risk of infection.

**Wound Drainage:** The flow of fluid from a wound, which can be serous, serosanguinous, purulent, or hemorrhagic.

**Wound Exudate:** Fluid that leaks out of blood vessels into the tissues, often seen in wounds as a sign of inflammation.

**Wound Infection:** The invasion of microorganisms into a wound, leading to inflammation, delayed healing, and potential complications.

**Wound Irrigation:** The process of flushing a wound with a solution to remove debris, promote healing, and prevent infection.

**Wound Packing:** The placement of a dressing or material into the depth of a wound to absorb exudate and promote healing.

**Wound VAC:** A negative pressure wound therapy device that uses suction to promote healing and remove excess fluid from wounds.

**Wound Healing:** The complex process of tissue repair that occurs in response to injury, involving inflammation, proliferation, and remodeling phases.

**Wound Tunneling:** An abnormal passageway that extends from the wound surface into surrounding tissue, often seen in chronic wounds.