

# Surgical Dressings

August 23, 2019

## Surgical Dressings Reference Chart

The Surgical Dressings Reference chart provides a quick look at what surgical dressings are covered for various wound depths and exudates, along with Medicare's recommended frequency of change coverage information.

Type of Dressing	Minimal Exudate	Moderate Exudate	Heavy Exudate	Usual Dressing Change
Alginate	Not Covered	Full Thickness		once daily
Collagen	Full Thickness		Not Covered	up to 7 days
Composite	Not Covered	Any		up to 3 times week
Contact Layer	Any			1 time week
Foam	Not Covered	Full Thickness		up to 3 times week
Gauze Impregnated	Any			once daily
Gauze Non-Impregnated (no border)	Any			3 times day
Gauze Non-Impregnated (border)	Any			once daily
Hydrocolloid (cover/filler)	Any		Not Covered	up to 3 times week
Hydrogel (no border)	Full Thickness	Not Covered		once daily
Hydrogel (border)	Full Thickness	Not Covered		up to 3 times week
Hydrogel filler	Full Thickness	Not Covered		3 units per wound/per 30 days
Specialty absorptive (no border)	Not Covered	Full Thickness		once daily
Specialty absorptive (border)	Not Covered	Full Thickness		every other day
Transparent Film	Partial Thickness or Closed	Not Covered		up to 3 times week
Wound Filler	Any			once daily
Wound Pouch	Any			up to 3 times week
Zinc Paste Impregnated Bandage	Any			1 time week

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## Tips

- ⇒ General documentation requirements must be met in addition to coverage criteria. This includes refill requirements and proof of delivery requirements
- ⇒ Modifiers A1 - A9 have been established to indicate that a particular item is being used as a primary or secondary dressing on a surgical or debrided wound and also to indicate number of wounds on which that dressing is being used. Modifier number must correspond to number of wounds on which dressing is being used, not total number of wounds treated. For example, if patient has four (4) wounds but a particular dressing is only used on two (2) of them, the A2 modifier must be used with that HCPCS code. Modifiers A1-A9 are not used with HCPCS A6531 and A6532. When tape HCPCS A4450 and A4452 are used with surgical dressings, they must be billed with AW modifier (in addition to appropriate A1-A9 modifier)
- ⇒ RT and/or LT modifiers must be used with HCPCS A6531, A6532, and A6545 for gradient compression stockings and wraps
- ⇒ When dressing codes are billed for items covered under another benefit (e.g., gauze for a continent ostomy which is covered under prosthetic device benefit) claims must be billed according to documentation requirements specified in applicable LCD (see Ostomy Supplies LCD for details)
- ⇒ No more than a one month's supply of dressings may be provided at one time, unless there is documentation to support necessity of greater quantities in home setting in an individual case