WOUND IRRIGATION: SYRINGE METHOD

PURPOSE:
To cleanse wound beds using the appropriate PSI.

POLICY:
Wounds will be cleansed at each clinic visit using an appropriate method. Syringe irrigation is indicated for wounds that require irrigation, such as cavity wounds, grossly contaminated, etc. Contraindicated in presence of clean, granulating wounds. More vigorous irrigation can be used on necrotic wounds.

PROCEDURE:

Equipment
Sterile normal saline
Personal protective equipment as required
Gloves, non-sterile
30-35 cc syringe with 19-20 g angiocath

Frequency
With each dressing change
Determine appropriate method of cleansing wound.
1. Explain procedure to client.
2. Wash hands
3. Prepare supplies:
   Fill syringe with NS
   attach angiocath
   drape client, as appropriate
4. Apply personal protective equipment, including gloves.
5. Remove old dressing, dispose of properly.
6. Evaluate wound.
7. Flush wound with irrigant. Hold syringe 1 to 2 inches from wound bed.
   Irrigate forcefully to debride loose, necrotic tissue.
   May attach 14 Fr. catheter to irrigate tunnels or undermined areas.
8. Dry surrounding skin.
9. Apply dressing.

REFERENCES: