Policy on Dressing and Catheter Packs.

This Policy aims to ensure that there is a consistent approach in the supply of Dressing Packs across WSCCG, and that quantities prescribed are appropriate and in accordance with WSCCG guidance. The Policy is in line with the PMS and GMS contracts and the minor injuries Enhances Service Agreement.

Key Points

- **DO NOT** prescribe Dressing Packs if for use by the practice/care provider
- **DO NOT** prescribe Catheter Packs e.g. Cath-It Catheter Insertion/Removal Pack or Prosys Catheter Packs
- Dressing Packs **MUST** be supplied by the practice/care provider unless indicated as below
- Dressing Packs should **ONLY** be prescribed if the patient is providing treatment themselves
- Healthcare professionals/nursing homes **MUST** source dressing packs from stock and **NOT** on a prescription

Useful Information

- Dressing/Catheter Packs for **self-care** should only be prescribed in two week quantities
- Prescribing of Dressing Packs should **ONLY** be in line with the WSCCG formulary which can be accessed here: https://www.westsuffolkccg.nhs.uk/clinical-area/prescribing-and-medicines-management/dressings-and-stoma/
- A suitable alternative can be obtained through any supply chain which the practice/care provider uses to source equipment such as gloves and aprons
- Gauze swabs can be ordered on prescription as per the above link

Professional Responsibilities

- Staff should be informed of the Policy to ensure that they are able to meet its requirement and check that equipment is sufficient
- The premises and equipment should be suitable to meet the reasonable needs of the patient
- Patients seen in secondary care should be discharged with at least two weeks supply of dressings to cover the period before their initial follow-up at the practice. Further **dressings** can then be obtained on prescription, however, **Dressing Packs** must be supplied by the practice/care provider
- Some wounds or procedures may not require aseptic technique, therefore the appropriate use of Dressing Packs must be considered
- Wherever care is available, healthcare workers must have appropriate supplies of protective equipment and materials for waste/decontamination to manage infection control
- Once a sterile pack is open, the contents are no longer sterile and this should be considered when carrying out the procedure at hand

References

1. PMS and GMS prescribing contracts.
2. Nice Guidance : https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG139/chapter/1-Guidance
3. Care Quality Commission - Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014 https://www.cqc.org.uk/guidance-providers/regulations-enforcement/regulations-service-providers-managers
4. Drug Tariff: **page 359**
5. CCG formulary: https://www.westsuffolkccg.nhs.uk/clinical-area/prescribing-and-medicines-management/dressings-and-stoma/

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