

## **Infection Control Precautions for Pulsatile Lavage with Suction Treatment**

Splash and aerosolization of bacteria during pulsatile lavage treatment has been reported in the literature. At Johns Hopkins Hospital the following infection control precautions are followed in order to prevent healthcare-associated transmission of organisms from wounds.

### Use of the Pulsatile Lavage Device

- Healthcare personnel who perform pulsatile lavage treatments should be familiar with all instructions and optimal techniques for use of the device to minimize contamination of the environment.
- Continuous suction should be used at all times.
- The splash shield at the tip of the device must remain in contact with the wound bed/ periwound area at all times during treatment.

### Location of treatment

- Pulsatile lavage is performed in a private room enclosed by walls and a door. No curtains or fabric covered furniture should be in the treatment room. The room must have washable surfaces and appropriate ventilation.
- Only essential equipment should be in the room. Supplies are stored in a closed cabinet, not on open shelves.
- Patient transport vehicles are moved out of the room during treatment.
- For patients unable to travel to the treatment room, bedside treatment in a patient's private hospital room is allowed only on a case-by-case basis after consulting with the Infection Control Department.

### Cultures

- When a referral for pulsatile lavage is received, the therapist requests the latest wound culture results from the physician. A new culture is obtained if the wound has not been cultured within the past 5 days.
- Patients whose culture results are pending or whose wound culture grows a multi-drug resistant organism will be treated at the end of the day whenever possible.
- The area supervisor will take periodic environmental cultures of surfaces in the treatment room as recommended by the Infection Control Department. A log will be kept of the cultures and the results.

### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Fluid-proof gowns, gloves, masks with face shields, hair covers, and shoe covers will be worn by all persons in the pulsatile lavage room during pulsatile lavage treatments.
- All PPE will be removed prior to leaving the treatment room and PPE will be changed between patients.
- Patients receiving pulsatile lavage treatment will wear a surgical mask during the procedure whenever possible.
- All of the patient's intravenous line sites, open wounds not currently being treated, and other portals of entry should be covered with a dressing or clean towel during pulsatile lavage treatment.
- Staff who clean and disinfect the room after each pulsatile lavage treatment will wear gown and gloves.
- The staff member setting up the pulsatile lavage equipment prior to the procedure will wear gloves.

### Cleaning

- After each treatment, all exposed linen in the treatment room will be placed in a leak resistant bag for transport to the laundry. Soiled linen will not be placed on the floor or on any clean surfaces. The patient's gown will be changed if wet.
- After each treatment, environmental surfaces must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected with 1:50 bleach solution.
- All supplies in contact with blood or body fluids – i.e. disposable pulsatile lavage equipment, canister inserts and dressing materials are disposed of in biohazard bags immediately after each treatment.
- Plastic inserts for the suction canisters are changed between patients and the suction canisters are cleaned and disinfected at the end of the day.
- Pulsatile lavage treatment rooms are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected each evening by Environmental Services.