

## Skin Graft Care

### For all Skin Grafts

- Watch for signs and symptoms of infection:
  - Redness (about 1 inch in width) and swelling around the burn.
  - Foul smelling drainage from the wound.
  - Flu-like symptoms (temperature greater than 100.4° by mouth for two readings 4 hours apart, chills, nausea, vomiting or muscle aches).
  - Increasing pain that is not relieved by prescribed pain medicine.

### Care of a Skin Graft with or without a Bolster or Splint

- Keep the grafted area **elevated** to prevent swelling which could damage the new skin graft.
- Keep the bolster or splint dry. You may clean around the bolster site by sponge bathing with mild soap and water.
- Take your prescribed medicine to control pain.
- Activity restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

### Care of a Skin Graft after Initial Dressings Removed

- Wash the area with mild soap and water beginning on \_\_\_\_\_.
- Apply moisturizing lotion \_\_\_\_\_ to keep new skin from drying or cracking. Air out graft for \_\_\_\_\_.
- Apply Wound Veil to graft site.
- Wrap graft area with non-stretch roller gauze.
- Apply compression \_\_\_\_\_.

### Questions

For question Monday through Friday 8 AM -5 PM please call the General Surgery and Burn Clinic at **608-263-7502**.

If you have urgent questions or needs after hours or on weekends, call the Burn Unit Nurses at **608-263-1490** or call **608-262-2122** and ask to have the Burn resident paged.

If you have non urgent questions or needs after hours or on weekends, you can leave a message the for General Surgery triage nurse at **608-890-9542**.

If you live out of the area, you can call toll free at **1-800-323-8942**.

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 7/2016 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#4404.