

Prescribing Tips for Silver Dressings



Review ALL requests for silver dressings to ensure that they are being used appropriately. An alternative (standard) dressing may be more appropriate.

Why it matters: NICE states: There is at present no robust clinical- or cost-effectiveness evidence to support the use of antimicrobial dressings over non-medicated dressings for preventing or treating chronic wounds. Indiscriminate use should be discouraged because of concerns over bacterial resistance and toxicity.



Consider seeking advice from a Tissue Viability Nurse (TVN) before initiating silver dressings.



Add directions and **review dates** to all prescriptions to avoid overuse.



Prescribe as **Acute** prescription only.



For most wounds a prescription for 5 dressings should be enough for the recommended **maximum of 2 weeks treatment**, allowing changing of dressings every 3 days.



Do not use silver dressings when daily dressing changes are required. Where exudate is an issue consider if the silver primary dressing can be left in place and only the secondary absorbent dressing changed.



STOP silver dressings if the wound does not respond or once the infection is controlled. **Refer to a TVN** for advice if there is no response within 2 weeks.



Do not use larger sizes of dressings unless necessary as these sizes are significantly more costly.

Wirral Wound Care Formulary

https://mm.wirral.nhs.uk/document_uploads/guidelines/WirralCTWound%20FormNov17.pdf