

ESM Table 1

<p>Basic wound contact dressings</p>	<p>Low-adherence dressings and wound contact materials: usually cotton pads which are placed directly in contact with the wound. They can be either non-medicated (e.g. paraffin gauze dressing) or medicated (e.g. containing povidone iodine or chlorhexidine).</p> <p>Absorbent dressings: applied directly to the wound and may be used as secondary absorbent layers in the management of heavily exuding wounds.</p>
<p>Advanced wound dressings</p>	<p>Alginate dressings: highly absorbent and come in the form of calcium alginate or calcium sodium alginate and can be combined with collagen. The alginate forms a gel when in contact with the wound surface which can be lifted off with dressing removal or rinsed away with sterile saline.</p> <p>Hydrogel dressings: consist of a starch polymer and up to 96% water. These dressings can absorb wound exudate or rehydrate a wound depending on the wound moisture levels. They are supplied in either flat sheets, an amorphous hydrogel or as beads.</p> <p>Films - permeable film and membrane dressings: permeable to water vapour and oxygen but not to water or microorganisms.</p> <p>Soft polymer dressings: dressings composed of a soft silicone polymer held in a non-adherent layer. They are moderately absorbent.</p> <p>Hydrocolloid dressings: usually composed of an absorbent hydrocolloid matrix on a vapour-permeable film or foam backing.</p> <p>Fibrous hydrocolloid dressing: Fibrous hydrocolloids have been developed which resemble alginates and are not occlusive.</p> <p>Hydrocolloid-matrix dressing: Described in the BNF as a polyurethane matrix with absorbent particles and waterproof polyurethane film.</p> <p>Foam dressings: contain hydrophilic polyurethane foam and are designed to absorb wound exudate and maintain moist wound surface.</p> <p>Capillary-action dressings: consist of an absorbent core of hydrophilic fibres held between two low-adherent contact layers.</p> <p>Odour-absorbent dressings: dressings that contain charcoal and are used to absorb wound odour. Can be used in conjunction with a secondary dressing to improve absorbency.</p>
<p>Anti-microbial dressings</p>	<p>Iodine-impregnated dressings: release free iodine when exposed to wound exudate, which is thought to act as a wound antiseptic.</p> <p>Silver-impregnated dressings: used to treat infected wounds as silver ions are thought to have antimicrobial properties. Silver versions of most dressing types are available (e.g. silver foam, silver hydrocolloid etc).</p> <p>Other antimicrobial dressings: these dressings are composed of a gauze or low-adherent dressing impregnated with an ointment thought to have antimicrobial properties.</p>
<p>Specialist dressings</p>	<p>Protease-modulating matrix dressings: are proposed to alter the activity of proteolytic enzymes in chronic wounds.</p>

ESM Table 1 Overview of common wound dressings based on British National Formulary categories.¹

1. British Medical Association and Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (2010). British National Formulary, Sept 2010;60, Appendix 8:Wound management Products and Elastic Hosiery. Available from bnf.org.uk/bnf/bnf/current/104946.htm, accessed