

Taking Care of Wounds That Are Draining or Have Not Healed

How to Change Your Bandage:

- **Gather your supplies**
 - **Plastic trash bag**
 - **Plastic gloves**
 - **Soap or alcohol-based hand sanitizer**
 - **Bandage**
 - **Q-tip (if instructed by your physician to use one)**
- **Wash your hands with soap and hot water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.**
- **Put on clean gloves before touching the skin around the wound.**
- **Follow the directions from the nurse or doctor for changing the bandage.**
- **Throw away used bandages in the trash bag.**
- **Throw away any dirty supplies, such as Q-tips, in the trash bag.**
- **Take off the plastic gloves and put them in the trash bag.**
- **Close the trash bag and put the bag in the common garbage.**
- **Wash hands again with soap and hot water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer. If your hands are visibly dirty, use soap and hot water.**
- **Put on clean gloves.**
- **Apply new dressing.**

While Changing Your Bandage:

- **DO NOT TOUCH ANY OTHER PARTS OF YOUR BODY.**
- **DO NOT TOUCH ANY OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS-BED, SINK, FAUCET, or TOWEL.**
- **DO NOT TOUCH ANY OTHER PERSON.**

Change Your Bandage:

- **As often as the doctor or nurse tells you-at least twice a day.**
- **Any time that you can see pus or drainage on the bandage.**
- **If the bandage gets wet or loose.**