

Wound Care Advisory Group meeting held on 18 November 2014

(Recommendations for web publishing)

The role of the Wound Care Advisory Group (WCAG) is to:

- provide objective advice to PHARMAC on the possible approaches for standardisation and rationalisation of wound care products nationally,
- assist with defining requirements and specifications that require consideration in relation to each wound care subcategory,
- review clinical evidence and appropriateness of new wound care products and/or new technology offered by wound care suppliers,
- help ensure that products are fit for purpose, clinically appropriate and meet the needs of patients at a sustainable cost, and
- consider, make recommendations or report to PHARMAC and/or PTAC on any other matters that may be referred to it by PHARMAC.

This document contains recommendations made by the WCAG at its 18 November 2014 meeting. Numbering has been updated to reflect this.

1. Members present from the Wound Care Advisory Group:

Julie Betts (Chair)
Alan Shackleton
Amanda Pagan
Catherine Hammond
Susie Wendelborn
Wendy Mildon

2. Review of Structure of Wound Care Categories and Subcategories Listed on Pharmaceutical Schedule

The Group considered the structure of the wound care categories and made the following observations and recommendations:

- 2.1 The lead categories of bandages, casting, dressing, tapes and other made sense.
- 2.2 In respect of the subcategories, it would depend on what the primary indication for the product is. PHARMAC advised that products cannot be listed in multiple subcategories.
- 2.3 The Group questioned what will be the primary function of the Schedule? Is the primary function of the Schedule listing to be for contract purposes or a reference tool for clinicians? For the purposes of this review, the Group worked on the basis that the Schedule product listings will be for contract purposes based on sound clinical advice.
- 2.4 Those products that are on the threshold of crossing over with medicines e.g. impregnated bandage should be highlighted on the Schedule in some way.
- 2.5 A short and simple definition of the subcategory should be provided in the subcategory heading in order for a practitioner to identify the properties of the products and what indications they are best prescribed for.
- 2.6 Members to bring any international documents that may assist in the categorising of wound care groupings to share at the next meeting.

The Group considered that at this meeting, it was more important to focus on generating definitions for subcategories that require a definition, and to also review each subcategory to ensure that products are listed in the appropriate subcategory groupings. Once this task is completed, the Group would then be able to continue to review the products listed under those subcategories to ensure that these products are sitting in the correct subcategories.

The Group considered the subcategories and made the following recommendations:

- 2.7 Cohesive Bandages: Add definition - Self adherent bandage.
- 2.8 Compression Bandages: Add definition - Delivers therapeutic level of compression.
- 2.9 Compression Kits: Remove as a subcategory and move to Compression Bandages subcategory groupings.
- 2.10 Conforming Bandages: Initial recommendation is to remove as a subcategory and move to Securement Bandages subcategory groupings. However, the Group requested PHARMAC to approach suppliers and seek clarification as to the point of difference of these types of bandages to be able to define the subcategory appropriately.
- 2.11 Elastic Adhesive Bandages: Remove as subcategory and move to Compression Bandages subcategory groupings (but retain Elastic Adhesive Bandages section heading). However, the Group requested more details on the properties of the USL products in order to determine which subcategory group might be appropriate for the products to sit in.
- 2.12 Garments: Add definition - Anatomically appropriate securement device. Remove as subcategory and move to Tubular Bandages subcategory groupings.
- 2.13 Impregnated Zinc Bandages: Remove “zinc” from subcategory wording. Highlight possible crossover of products in medicines.
- 2.14 Securement Bandages: Add definition - Device to secure dressing(s).
- 2.15 Tubular Bandages: Remove as subcategory and move to Securement Bandages groupings.
- 2.16 Casting: Add definition - An external device used to fix a limb in a rigid position for a therapeutic outcome.
- 2.17 Casting Accessories – Remove “Casting” from subcategory wording and move to “Accessories” subcategory groupings.
- 2.18 Casting Tapes: Add definition – A roll of casting material used to fix a limb in place.
- 2.19 Immobilisers: Add definition – External device to reduce movement.
- 2.20 Padding – Add definition – Device to cushion.
- 2.21 Slings: Remove as subcategory and move to Immobilisers subcategory groupings.
- 2.22 Splints: Remove as subcategory and move to Immobilisers subcategory groupings.

- 2.23 Stockinettes: Add definition – Tubular bandage used as base layer.
- 2.24 Absorbent Dressings: Add definition – Dressings used to absorb exudate.
- 2.25 Alginate Dressings: Add definition - Calcium alginate based dressings. Highlight possible crossover of products in medicines.
- 2.26 Antimicrobial Dressings: Add definition - Dressings used to reduce microbial load. Highlight possible crossover of products in medicines.
- 2.27 Cavity Dressings – Alginate Cavity Dressings: Remove Cavity Dressing subcategory and move Alginate Cavity Dressings to Alginate Dressings subcategory groupings.
- 2.28 Cavity Dressings – Antimicrobial Cavity Dressings: Remove Cavity Dressing subcategory and move Antimicrobial Cavity Dressings to Antimicrobial Dressings subcategory groupings. Highlight possible crossover of products in medicines.
- 2.29 Cavity Dressings – Contact Layer Cavity Dressings: Remove Cavity Dressing subcategory and move Contact Layer Cavity Dressings to Contact Layer Dressings subcategory groupings.
- 2.30 Cavity Dressings – Foam Cavity Dressings: Remove Cavity Dressing subcategory and move Foam Cavity Dressings to Foam Dressings subcategory groupings.
- 2.31 Cavity Dressings – Gelling Fibre Cavity Dressings: Remove Cavity Dressing subcategory and move Gelling Fibre Cavity Dressings to Fibre Gelling Dressings subcategory groupings.
- 2.32 Composite Dressings: Add definition – Multilayer Multifunctional Dressings (not included in any other Subcategory Group).
- 2.33 Contact Layer Dressings: Add definition – Direct to wound interface dressing requiring a secondary dressing.
- 2.34 First Aid Dressings: Change subcategory heading to - Simple Single Adhesive Dressing and remove subcategory wording - “Non Woven Adhesive First Aid Dressings”.
- 2.35 Foam Dressings: Add definition – Foam based dressings.
- 2.36 Gelling Fibre Dressing: Change subcategory name to “Fibre Gelling Dressings” and add definition – Cellulose based dressings.
- 2.37 Hydrocolloid Dressings: Add definition – Moisture Retentive, Adhesive, Occlusive Dressings containing polymers that convert to a gel.

- 2.38 Hydrogel Dressings: Add definition: Polymer Dressings mixed with sterile saline or water to form a viscous gel.
- 2.39 Hypertonic Dressings: Add new subcategory – Hypertonic Dressings - add definition – Dressings with a high degree of salt to increase osmolarity. Move Mesalt Dressings currently in Highly Absorbent and Contact Layer Dressings to this new subcategory grouping.
- 2.40 Low Adherent Dressings (Tulles): Remove as subcategory and move to Contact Layer Dressings subcategory groupings.
- 2.41 Low Adherent Fabric Dressings: Rename subcategory as “Island Dressings”. Add definition – Low Adherent Dressings with adhesive border.
- 2.42 Island Dressings: Add new subcategory - Low Adherent Film Dressings. There will be products that fall into this new subcategory grouping.
- 2.43 Low Adherent Fabric Dressings: Move this subcategory to Contact Layer Dressings subcategory groupings.
- 2.44 Maternity Nipple Dressing: The Group requested more details from Covidien on the properties of this product in order to determine which subcategory groupings might be appropriate for the product to sit in.
- 2.45 Moisture Control Dressings: Remove this subcategory and move to Foam Subcategory groupings. The Group also requested the chemical construction details of the Cutinova product be obtained from Smith & Nephew in order to determine which subcategory might be appropriate for this product to sit in.
- 2.46 Pressure Relieving Pads: Rename this subcategory “Pressure Redistribution Pads”.
- 2.47 Pressure Relieving Pads – Silicone Pads: Remove Silicone Pads from Pressure Relieving Pads subcategory and move to Silicone Dressings subcategory groupings.
- 2.48 Pressure Relieving Pads – Silicone Pads: Move KerraPro product range to Pressure Redistribution Pads subcategory Groupings. The Group requested more details from USL on the properties of this product range in order to ensure that the products are being moved to the correct subcategory groupings.
- 2.49 Pressure Relieving Pads – Silicone Pads: Advazorb Silflo and Lite has “Adhesive” noted in additional Information Section. The correct information to note is “Foam and Adhesive”.
- 2.50 Pressure Relieving Pads – Silicone Pads: When Eclipse Adherent product range is moved to Silicone Dressings groupings, add new

subcategory – Silicone Absorbent Dressings for this product range to sit in.

- 2.51 Silicone Dressings: Move Mepiform product range to Other Category, Scar Therapy and create new subcategory called Scar Therapy Dressings.
- 2.52 Silicone Dressings: Move Cica-Care product range to Other Category, Scar Therapy and create new subcategory called Scar Therapy Sheets.
- 2.53 Silicone Dressings: Move Silfex product range to Contact Layer Dressings subcategory and create new subcategory called Silicone Contact Layer Dressings.
- 2.54 Silicone Dressings: Create a new Collagen Dressings subcategory and move the Biobrane product range into it.
- 2.55 Silicone Dressings: The Group requested more details from Bamfords on the properties of Episil in order to determine which subcategory group might be appropriate for the product to sit in.
- 2.56 Transparent Film Dressings with Visible Surgical Site Pad: Move product range to Island Dressings subcategory groupings.
- 2.57 Transparent Film Dressings with Absorbent Pad: Move to Island Dressings subcategory groupings.
- 2.58 Transparent Film Dressings with Absorbent Pad: Move Polymem range of products to Foam Subcategory Groupings with new category heading – Foam Dressings with Surfactant.
- 2.59 Create a new Securement Dressings for Drain Sites subcategory (and move to Securement Dressings for IV Lines Subcategory groupings – see below). Move Opsite Post-Op Visible Drain Dressings product into this subcategory.
- 2.60 Transparent Securement Film Dressings: Rename to Securement Dressings for IV Lines Subcategory.
- 2.61 IV Securement Dressings Subcategory: Rename to Transparent Dressings to be a grouping under Securement Dressings for IV Lines subcategory.
- 2.62 Create a new subcategory under Securement Dressings for IV Lines called Transparent Dressings with Antimicrobial and move Tegaderm with Antimicrobial Chlorhexidine 2% into it. Highlight possible crossover of products in medicines.
- 2.63 Transparent Silicone Film Dressings: Remove subcategory and move to Transparent Film Dressings subcategory groupings.

- 2.64 Abdominal Gauze Packing: Remove subcategory and move product to Swabs Subcategory groupings.
- 2.65 Burns Bags - The Group requested more details from Bamfords on how Burns Bags are used and where these are used in order to determine which subcategory group might be appropriate for the product to sit in.
- 2.66 Cloths Subcategory: The Group requested more details from Smith & Nephew on where the sterile cloths are used and what these are used for in order to determine which subcategory group might be appropriate for the product to sit in.
- 2.67 Combine Dressings and Gamgees: Remove subcategory and move product range to Absorbent Dressings subcategory groupings.
- 2.68 Combine Dressings and Gamgees – Post Surgical Dressings. The Group requested more details from Smith & Nephew on the properties of Post Surgical Dressings in order to determine which subcategory group might be appropriate for the product to sit in.
- 2.69 Dressing Bags - The Group requested more details from Jackson Allison on how Dressing Bags are used and where these are used in order to determine which subcategory group might be appropriate for the product to sit in.
- 2.70 Maternity Pads: Rename to Sanitary Pads subcategory.
- 2.71 Create a new subcategory called – Wound Closure. Move Suture Packs subcategory to Wound Closure groupings. In the future, this subcategory could include sutures, glues, staples etc.
- 2.72 Skin Closure Strips: Remove subcategory and move to Wound Closure subcategory groupings.
- 2.73 Skin Preparations: Rename subcategory to Adhesive Removers and rename subcategories as Solutions and Wipes subcategory groupings.
- 2.74 Swabs Category – Non Woven Balls – Add in Additional Information section – Gauze.
- 2.75 Tracheostomy Tapes: Rename subcategory to Tracheostomy Securement Tapes.
- 2.76 Wound Gels/Ointments/Creams/Salves: Remove Antimicrobial Salves subcategory and move to Antimicrobial Dressings subcategory groupings. Highlight possible crossover of products in medicines.

- 2.77 Wound Gels/Ointments/Creams/Salves: Remove Hydrogel Wound Gels subcategory and move to Hydrogel Dressings subcategory groupings. Highlight possible crossover of products in medicines.
- 2.78 Wound Gels/Ointments/Creams/Salves: Create a new subcategory called Hypertonic Dressings and move Hypertonic Wound Gels to Hypertonic Dressings subcategory groupings.
- 2.79 Wound Mapping Grids – Rename subcategory to Wound Measuring Devices and move to Supplementary Products subcategory groupings.
- 2.80 Tapes Lead Category: Rename to Adhesive Tapes lead category.
- 2.81 Fabric Tapes - Fabric Tapes – High Adhesion: The Group requested more information from 3M on the properties of Durapore and Medipore in order to determine the difference between the two products.
- 2.82 Non Porous Transparent Tapes: The Group requested more information from Smith & Nephew on Leukoflex to be able to understand its properties.
- 2.83 Non Woven Fabric Tapes: The Group requested more product information from all suppliers to this subcategory in order to determine the differences between the products and which subcategory group might be appropriate for the products to sit in.

3. Action Points

- 3.1 PHARMAC to approach suppliers of listed Conforming Bandages subcategory and seek clarification as to the point of differences of Conforming Bandages and report back at the next meeting.
- 3.2 PHARMAC to approach USL to request further details on the properties of the USL bandages listed in the Elastic Adhesive Bandages subcategory and report back to the Group at the next meeting.
- 3.3 PHARMAC to approach Covidien to request further details of the properties of the Mothermates Nipple Dressing listed in Maternity Dressings subcategory and report back at the next meeting.
- 3.4 PHARMAC to approach Smith & Nephew to request further details of the chemical construction of Cutinova Dressings listed in Moisture Control Dressings subcategory and report back at the next meeting.
- 3.5 PHARMAC to approach USL to request further details of the properties of KerraPro Dressings listed in Pressure Relieving Dressings – Silicone Pads subcategory and report back at the next meeting.

- 3.6 PHARMAC to approach Bamfords to request further details of the properties of Episil Dressings listed in Silicone Dressings – Silicone Gel Sheets subcategory and report back at the next meeting.
- 3.7 PHARMAC to approach Bamfords to request further details of the usage of and where Burns Bags are used that are listed in Other Category and report back at the next meeting.
- 3.8 PHARMAC to approach Smith & Nephew to request further details of the usage of and where sterile cloths are used that are listed in the Other Category and report back at the next meeting.
- 3.9 PHARMAC to approach Smith & Nephew to request further details of the properties of Propax Post Surgical Dressings listed in Combine Dressings and Gamgees subcategory and report back at the next meeting.
- 3.10 PHARMAC to approach Jackson Allison to request further details of the usage of and where Dressings Bags are used that are listed in the Other Category and report back at the next meeting.
- 3.11 PHARMAC to approach 3M to request further information of the differences between Durapore and Medipore Tapes that are listed in the Fabric Tapes subcategory and report back at the next meeting.
- 3.12 PHARMAC to approach Smith & Nephew to request further information on the properties of Leukoflex Tapes that are listed in the Non Porous Transparent Tapes subcategory and report back at the next meeting.
- 3.13 PHARMAC to approach all suppliers of the Non Woven Fabric Tapes subcategory to request further product information and report back at the next meeting.
- 3.14 PHARMAC to attend to the amendments to the Schedule of wound care subcategories, as per the recommendations of the Group in Section 8 of these Minutes and present the amended Schedule to the Group at the next meeting.