Skin Tear Algorithm

Prevention of Skin Tears (ST)

Risk Assessment Tool as per Facility Policy

Identified as High Risk for Skin Tears

Dietary Consult (to promote adequate nutrition & hydration)

**Incontinence**
- Meticulous skin care, quick cleanup
- A pH balanced cleanser (3M™ Cavilon™ Skin Cleanser)
- Application of a barrier cream which contains dimethicone and resists wash-off. (3M™ Cavilon™ Durable Barrier Cream)
  - OR
  - Application of an alcohol free barrier film (3M™ Cavilon™ No Sting Barrier Film)
  - Good quality containment products that quickly wick urine away from skin

**Reduced Vision**
- Adequate lighting
- Uncluttered pathways
- Appropriate clothing (long sleeves/long pants/stockings)
- Patient education
- Application of a barrier film prior to use of tapes/adhesives (3M™ Cavilon™ No Sting Barrier Film)

**Immobility**
- Utilization of lift sheets, mechanical lifts, wedges, pillows
- Gentle handling of patient when transferring
- Keep patients’ fingernails short
- Pad sharp edges of equipment (i.e. a wheelchair)
- Application of a barrier film prior to use of tapes/adhesives (3M™ Cavilon™ No Sting Barrier Film)

**Reduced Sensation to Pain**
- Patient education
- Appropriate clothing (long sleeves, long pants, stockings)
- Padded edges of furniture/equipment
- Uncluttered pathways
- Application of a barrier film prior to use of tapes or adhesives (3M™ Cavilon™ No Sting Barrier Film)

**Treatment of Skin Tears**
- Cleanse wound as per facility protocol
- Gently pat dry
- Apply barrier film to fragile peri-wound tissue (3M™ Cavilon™ No Sting Barrier Film)
- Apply 3M™ Tegaderm™ Absorbent Clear Acrylic Dressing
- Observe daily
- Remove dressing if edges start to lift or exudate leaks or when skin tear is healed

***Full product application instructions found on package insert.***