

Choosing with Care:

IV Medical Dressing Selection Checklist

Dressings Done Right:

Not all IV dressings are made the same, find the perfect patient protection.

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The Right Dressing, The Best Outcome

Mastering IV dressing choices for your patients

Every year millions of patients require IV care, with approximately 80-90% of hospitalized patients needing an IV catheter¹ during their hospital stay. While the procedure is common, every individual's experience and needs are unique.

Vascular access² stands out as an invasive procedure in medical care, with every stage from insertion to removal presenting its own challenges. When things don't go as planned, the repercussions can be substantial. Complications from vascular access³ not only weigh heavily on hospital resources but more critically, can profoundly impact a patient's health and recovery. Yet, most of these complications are entirely preventable.

Guardians of the IV Gateway: The Role of IV Dressings

One crucial component that plays an outsized role in determining the success of vascular access care is the selection of the right dressing. From the moment of insertion

to the ongoing maintenance, an IV medical dressing is more than an adhesive covering - it's an important barrier between advanced medical care and the patient's skin.

Prioritizing Skin Health in IV Therapy

Directly adhered to the skin, the right dressing should do more than just secure the IV. It must respect and protect the integrity of the patient's skin. An IV dressing should not cause skin complications, but instead seamlessly integrate into care, safely securing the IV while protecting the insertion site and maintaining skin health and comfort.

Beyond One-Size-Fits-All: Finding the Perfect Dressing Match

Dressing selection is a collaborative effort between care providers, patients and their caregivers. This checklist serves as a guide to dressing selection, ensuring that every IV journey is as safe and comfortable as possible.

¹ Presley, B., & Isenberg, J. D. (2023). Ultrasound-Guided Intravenous Access. PubMed; StatPearls Publishing. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK525988/#:~:text=At%20least%2015%20to%20200>

² AAVA's Resource Guide for Vascular Access. (n.d.). www.avainfo.org. Retrieved September 4, 2023, from <https://www.avainfo.org/page/resourceguide>

³ Bonsall, L. (2015, February 10). Complications of Peripheral I.V. Therapy. Nursingcenter.com. [https://www.nursingcenter.com/ncblog/february-2015-\(1\)/complications-of-peripheral-i-v-therapy](https://www.nursingcenter.com/ncblog/february-2015-(1)/complications-of-peripheral-i-v-therapy)

The Roadmap to Dressing Excellence: *Charting the Way Forward*

Use this guide to help choose the best dressing for each of your patient's unique needs.

Patient-Centered Dressing Selection Can Help Achieve:

- Fewer dressing changes
- Ability to monitor the site without removal or manipulation of the dressing
- Zero instances of MARSI
- Decline in CLABSIs
- Protection from microorganisms that are known to cause infections
- Minimized trauma during care
- Improved patient satisfaction
- Better patient outcomes

Patient Considerations

- Diagnosis
- Comorbidities
- Age
- Skin type
- Patient preference
- Care setting
- MARSI risk
- Frequency of wear
- Allergies/sensitivities

Skin Sensitive Population

- Neonates and infants
- Malnutrition or dehydrated
- Medications such as corticosteroids or radiation therapy
- Skin conditions like eczema

Therapy Considerations

- IV site: peripheral or central
- Duration
- Monitoring

Device Considerations

- Use of antimicrobial
- Atraumatic
- Acrylic vs. silicone
- Shape and size
- Transparency
- Compatibility

Provider Considerations

- Care and maintenance
- Personnel expertise
- Access
- Cost

IV Dressing Types

Use the chart below to compare IV dressings and select the right product tailored to the device requirements your patient needs.

Dressing Type	Peripheral IV	Central Line IV	Antimicrobial Protection	Type of CHX	Total Amount of CHX	Dual antimicrobials (Silver)	Area of antimicrobial coverage	Atraumatic Silicone Adhesive	Acrylic Adhesive Component	Transparent
IV Clear*	●	●	●	Chlorhexidine Diacetate	Up to 54 mg	Yes - CHX & Silver	Up to ~120 cm ²	●	Limited to Optional Acrylic Border	●
CovaClear® IV	●	●		N/A	0		0	●	Limited to Optional Acrylic Border	●
Tegaderm™ CHG ¹	●	●	●	Chlorhexidine Gluconate	Up to 78 mg		Up to ~12 cm ²		●	With tinted gel pad at insertion site
Tegaderm™ I.V. Advanced	●	●		N/A	0		0		●	●
BioPatch® ²	●	●	●	Chlorhexidine Gluconate	Up to 92 mg		Up to ~5 cm ²		Cover dressing required. May be acrylic.	
IV3000	●	●		N/A	0		0		●	●

¹ 3M™ Tegaderm™ CHG Chlorhexidine Gluconate I.V. Securement Dressing, Instructions for Use, 3M Company. 2020. Tegaderm™ is a trademark of 3M™.

² BIOPATCH® Protective Disk with CHG, Instructions for Use, Ethicon Inc. 2012. BIOPATCH is a trademark of Ethicon Inc.

*Not recommended for use on premature or infants younger than 2 months of age.



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