NHS Clinical Evaluation Team
by the NHS, for the NHS

Clinical Review

Superabsorbent Dressings

October 2018

Contents

Guidance for use

This clinical evaluation report is aimed primarily at the NHS and all those working to support patient care.

Please note that the product assessment results should only be read and used in conjunction with the full text of this clinical review.

1. Introduction

The NHS Clinical Evaluation Team was established in April 2016. The team's remit is to add independent clinical review to 'everyday healthcare consumables' used by the NHS.

Everyday healthcare consumables are products that are found in the majority of wards, clinics, health centres, treatment rooms and district nurses' bags across the NHS. The purpose of this report is two-fold: firstly, to provide a clinical assessment of the usability and requirements from the NHS for superabsorbent dressings that are available to the NHS from the national procurement provider and secondly, to provide a clinical statement of desired functions and properties that the clinicians in the NHS require of superabsorbent dressings for use in future procurement activities.

It is clear from the evidence that superabsorbent dressings featured in this report, are everyday healthcare consumables that are found in most clinics or ward settings and would certainly be items included in any stock list to set up a new clinical service. On that basis, the project was approved by the Clinical Reference Board, culminating in the production of this report for their approval in October 2018.

Based on 2017 data supplied by NHS Supply Chain, NHS Trusts are using over 3,318,000 superabsorbent dressings annually with a total spend of over £5.5 million and their data also indicates that usage is increasing significantly year on year.

This route of purchase makes up only a percentage of total products purchased (approximately 40%). However with community services being a major purchaser of wound care products and with direct purchase and FP10 (prescription) being a predominant route for dressing procurement the true annual expenditure for superabsorbent dressings is therefore significantly higher than this.

There are 20 different product brands in the category supplied by 11 different suppliers. This report covers the range of products available as of September 2017.

Intelligence about superabsorbent dressings was gathered from a variety of sources to provide background information on the current evidence available to support the way in which the devices are designed and clinically evaluated.

Following this, clinical engagement sessions were held with the aim of identifying important clinical criteria for superabsorbent dressings from frontline NHS clinicians. This information was used to develop clinical criteria for superabsorbent dressings, against which all brands available from the national procurement provider were reviewed.

Findings from these clinical reviews are collated into a product assessment report to allow users to identify products and see how they performed against the agreed clinical criteria.

A more detailed description of the team and our pathway approach can be found in the NHS Clinical Evaluation Team operating manual which can be found on our website at: www.supplychain.nhs.uk/CET.

2. Clinical Context

Clinical Definition and Scope

Superabsorbent dressings are a relatively recent introduction to wound care management. The majority used are non-adhesive however adhesive and those with a silicone wound contact layer are available in some ranges. They are available in a variety of shapes and sizes to meet the needs of individuals' wound sizes and a range of anatomical sites.

Superabsorbent dressings are hydro active dressings containing polyacrylate polymers (known as superabsorbent polymers or SAPs). Some superabsorbent dressings contain a combination of cellulose and SAPs within their core .These synthetic polymers are capable of absorbing high volumes of wound exudate greater than their own dry weight.

Intended Clinical Use

Superabsorbent dressings are designed to absorb and retain fluid on wounds of varying aetiologies that produce moderate to high volumes of wound exudate.

Some superabsorbent dressings have properties which may enhance wound healing through retaining components of exudate including bacteria, proteases and inflammatory mediators within the core of the dressing (Wiegand et al 2013, Wiegand and White, 2013)

Superabsorbent dressings have enhanced fluid handling capacity and absorbency and therefore have potentially longer wear times than other types of dressings. They are designed to reduce potential leakage and decrease the risk of peri-wound maceration and excoriation.

The superabsorbent dressings evaluated in this report can all be used as primary and secondary dressings.

Clinical Practice

Clinical knowledge and understanding of best practice regarding exudate management is essential to promote patient wellbeing, improve healing outcomes as well as increasing healthcare efficiency and productivity.

Inappropriate management of exudate can lead to complexities including protein deficiency, skin damage, pain and poor patient wellbeing. Where this occurs healing can be potentially prolonged, placing an unnecessary burden on patients and NHS resources (Wounds UK, 2013).

Accurate assessment of wound exudate is a key component of wound management and may be achieved through various methods depending on the cause of the excessive exudate production. Effective management of the underlying cause together with the selection of appropriate dressings is therefore essential to best practice.

Clinical Impact

Management of wound exudate primarily involves treating the underlying aetiology and then optimising the wound bed. Dressings play an important contributory role by absorbing excess moisture, to create a moisture balance at the wound bed that promotes healing, and preventing maceration and excoriation (World Union of Wound Healing Societies, 2007).

Highly exuding wounds often require increased nursing intervention, increased number of dressings and increased nursing time. A dressing that is able to absorb and retain exudate may potentially extend the amount of time between dressing changes as well as reduce the amount of dressings used.

Other Clinical Considerations

2.5.1 Absorbency and wear time

The dressing's ability to manage wound exudate should not only be determined by the amount of fluid it can absorb but also in terms of fluid retention when external pressure is applied and independent laboratory results relating to these factors were commissioned for this report . (See section 6.1)

Absorbency and wear time are important considerations when choosing a dressing. There will be situations, however, when the wound(s) will need to be observed before the dressing becomes fully saturated. In addition, due to the high absorption capacity and resulting weight of some of the superabsorbent dressings, leaving them in place until they become fully saturated may not be in a patient's best interest and therefore the dressing would need to be replaced prior to this.

2.5.2 Superabsorbent dressings and compression therapy.

Many superabsorbent dressings are indicated for use in combination with compression therapy for venous leg ulcers and this is common practice.

Superabsorbent dressings swell significantly as they absorb and lock away exudate so may cause alteration to sub bandage pressures with a potential impact on healing rates and resulting negative effects on patient comfort and concordance. The extent of these effects is yet to be fully established.

A small scale evaluation by Cook (2011) identified that sub bandage pressures were increased under 2 and 4 layer compression bandage systems as the dressings absorb fluid highlighting the need for further independent controlled trials in this area.

2.6 Product Technical Design

Superabsorbent dressings have enhanced fluid handling capacity and absorbency compared to other dressings, such as foams, however the fluid handling capacity of these dressings and how they function under pressure varies according to their design and construction.

The components of the dressings vary slightly in number with usually 3 or 4 layers which may include

- a wound contact layer
- an inner absorbent core containing superabsorbent gelling particles with or without a mixture of cellulose fibres enveloped in a non-woven material
- a wicking layer which can distribute fluid horizontally or vertically into the core of the dressing
- an outer , fluid resistant backing*

*The matrix of dressings will indicate which dressings have this as a feature. Whilst a protective backing may act as a barrier against bacteria and strikethrough of exudate, dressings without a protective backing may be beneficial where dressings need to be folded or to minimise the risk of the incorrect side of the dressing being applied to the wound bed. The appropriate choice of dressing will vary according to clinical environment, clinical judgement and patient choice.

3. Pathway Methods

CET follows a standardised approach to evaluations, which can be found in the CET Operating Manual.

Intelligence Gathering

In preparation of the criteria, account has been taken of academic and related clinical evidence, known guidance and nationally recognised publications as further described in this Section 3.

3.1.1. Literature search

A literature search has been undertaken to establish what current academic knowledge exists on the products for evaluation. It should be noted that the team have not conducted a comprehensive or systematic review of literature. However, the team have interrogated the information to look for common themes which supported the development of the clinical criteria.

Initially, an evidence search was performed across the NICE service: **https://www.evidence.nhs.uk/ .** This provided a nationally published article (NICE 2016) highlighting the lack of robust clinical evidence on the performance of complex/advanced wound care products, in aiding wound progression in comparison to basic products.

At this point it is worthy to note that there is variation relating to the classification of superabsorbent dressings with some being 'advanced wound dressings' and others as 'basic (absorbent) wound contact dressings' section of the BNF (British National Formulary) according to their composition.

The search terms used (see below) generated many returns, however, many of these were case studies, posters, and examples of performance and delivery of advanced wound care products and often included subjective opinion from clinicians using these products. Many of these were open to bias being funded by manufacturers, without a defined methodology or without a clear control. This information was of value, but difficult to quantify and qualify.

Search criteria	Databases searched
Superabsorbent AND dressings **Super absorbents** **SAPs**	• **NICE website Evidence search https://www.evidence.nhs.uk/** • **NICE website journals and databases https://www.nice.org.uk/about/what-**

Exudate AND management	**we-do/evidence-services/journals-and-databases** (using Healthcare databases advanced search tool – AMED, EMBASE, HMIC, BNI, Medline, PsycInfo, CINAHL, HEALTH BUSINESS ELITE databases searched)
Date Range	**Since 2007**
Language	**English**

Figure 1 Literature and other sources searches – **Superabsorbent dressings**

3.1.2. National procurement provider specification

As the national procurement provider, NHS Supply Chain manages a framework of suppliers who are then listed in the national catalogue. The framework covers a wider selection of products than just Superabsorbent dressings.

The specification for general wound care products used by the national provider (NHS Supply Chain) has been reviewed to understand what has previously been asked of suppliers of these dressings.

The specification, as used by the NHS national procurement provider (NHS Supply Chain, 2016), provides insufficient detail relating to the clinical criteria relevant for these products, but is considered in the process for the development of such criteria.

3.1.3. National and international safety and quality standards

Account has also been taken of appropriate international and other standards as they pertain to the devices (e.g. from the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), European Standards (EN) and/or British Standards Institution (BSI) and as such there is no clear statement of any international or other standards that are applicable for these types of devices. .

It is also noted that the Medical Device Directive 93/42/EEC as amended, is currently in transition to the new Medical Device Regulation MDR 2017/745

- All products classified as a Medical Device must have their CE marking clearly evident on the product and/or packaging and meet the requirements set out within the standard(s) related to labelling.

A review of Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) alerts has also been performed. The MHRA website (https://www.gov.uk/drug-device-alerts) returned no product alerts relating to this product category against the search terms previously described

3.1.4. Product suppliers and manufacturers

All suppliers listed within the national framework were invited to submit relevant evidence, product information and testing data to help support the review.

Some suppliers provided a range of information from product brochure through to technical datasheets and evidence of compliance with standards.

3.1.5. Quality of evidence

Hierarchy of evidence

Levels of evidence sometimes referred to as hierarchy of evidence are assigned to studies based on the methodological quality of their design, validity, and applicability to patient care.

Hierarchy ranking	Description
Level 1	A systematic review of all relevant randomised controlled trials (RCT) or evidence-based clinical practice guidelines based on systematic reviews of RCT evidence
Level 2	Evidence from at least one well designed RCT
Level 3	Evidence from well-designed controlled trials; non-randomised, quasi experimental
Level 4	Well-designed case control & cohort studies
Level 5	Systematic reviews of descriptive and qualitative studies
Level 6	Evidence from a single, descriptive or qualitative study
Level 7	Evidence from the opinion of authorities and/or reports of expert committees

Figure 2 – Hierarchy ranking: Evidence based practice in nursing & healthcare: a guide to best practice" (B.M. Melnyk & E. Fineout-Overholt; 2005; p10)

Best Practice Guidelines

National peer reviewed guidelines intended to guide practice and promote a consistent and cohesive approach to care regarding the role of exudate and its management are readily available (Wounds UK, 2013).

The World Union of Wound Healing Societies (2007), has highlighted the importance of appropriate dressing selection for exudate control and removal of excess exudate stating that effective management of exudate should shorten wound healing time, optimise resources and reduce the impact on a patient's physical and psychological health status.

Patient Perspectives

The negative impact of excessive exudate production is well documented with frequent dressing changes, increased risk of infection, the indignity of leakage of exudate onto skin and clothes and malodour impacting on patients' and sometimes carer's quality of life.

Effective exudate management includes addressing patient concerns as well as the prevention and treatment of exudate-related physical problems (Dowsett, 2011). If not managed appropriately, this can not only result in a negative patient experience but potentially compromise concordance with care. Patient comfort and acceptability are important factors when implementing any wound management plan and should always be taken into account.

4. NHS Clinical Engagement

In order to develop a shared vision of what is required from superabsorbent dressings several methods of engagement were used. This facilitated a collation of thoughts, ideas and needs from differing clinicians, familiar with these products; identifying their own expectation(s) of the product for their given patient group, and intended patient outcome whilst being used in a variety of differing clinical environments.

Mapping exercises were undertaken to determine personnel that should be involved and/or consulted regarding these products. This stage of the report focused on clinical staff that are:

a) Recognised as subject experts and/or
b) recognised regular users of the devices in their clinical practice.

Various methods of engagement were undertaken to ensure these clinical opinions were robust, and validated by peers from around the country, options of engagement included:

- Regional and national face-to-face events with NHS clinical colleagues
- Focussed visits to NHS clinicians regional and national face-to-face events
- Website subscription
- Attendance at specialist network events
- Attendance at NHS Business Services Authority events
- Web-based surveys and e-engagement tools (e.g. email, WebEx, portal based surveys)

Clinical Conversations

To build a broad caucus of attendees at our events letters were sent inviting Trusts to nominate clinical colleagues to attend a series of regional group events. These were hosted by NHS organisations throughout England to enable the widest possible access for all invited. This ensured to set aside any pre-existing regional variance.

Details of the discussion outcomes were recorded electronically via an on line survey (which was also completed remotely by wound care specialists) and then used together with the evidence gathered at the previous project stage to inform a list of clinical criteria against which the product has been tested.

4.2.1 Clinical Criteria and explanation

The data received from all the NHS clinical conversation events, alongside that collected from individual experts, was assimilated into a series of clinical criteria.

A clinical criterion is defined for the purposes of this report as a principle or standard by which products may be evaluated. It is a statement which describes the clinician's requirements for the product.

The proposed criteria were validated by workshop attendees and all other clinical experts engaged in the development process. In addition, other clinical experts who are likely to add further useful insight were also included, leading to the finalised clinical criteria listed below.

To enhance the readers understanding of this report, and to provide value to the results, an explanation for the defined clinical criteria is also captured.

Clinical Criteria – Super absorbent dressings	Rationale for inclusion
PACKAGING	
The product category is visible on the outer packaging (superabsorbent /adhesive (bordered) superabsorbent dressing)	Generalists and specialists have requested this information to facilitate an appropriate clinical choice.
The product category is visible on the inner packaging superabsorbent/adhesive (bordered) superabsorbent dressing)	As above.
The indication for use is visible on the outer packaging e.g. for moderately to highly exuding wounds	Clinicians have requested this to facilitate safe and effective use of the dressing.
The indication for use is visible on the inner packaging	Clinicians have requested this information to be on the inner packaging as dressings are often stored out of the box and without an information leaflet.
The batch number, expiry date and sterility can be found on the outer packaging	Clinicians have requested this information to ensure safe use of product
The batch number, expiry date and sterility can be found on the inner packaging	As above
There is information on the outer packaging relating to storage	Clinicians stated that this was important for staff as well as patients who are storing dressings at home
The quantity of dressings contained is stated on the outer packaging	For efficient stock management

Size of dressing stated relates to absorbent pad (excluding border) and is displayed on the outer packaging	General and specialist clinicians have requested this information to facilitate an appropriate clinical choice and reduce risk of inappropriate size choices that may lead to waste
Size of dressing relates to absorbent pad (excluding border) an is displayed on inner packaging	As above
The dressing size and shape can be easily identified without opening the individual packaging	Clinicians have said this could potentially reduce waste in terms of minimising the wrong type or size of dressing being opened and then discarded if not required.
The product is latex free (as stated by supplier)	General and specialist clinicians have requested this information to be present to facilitate an appropriate clinical choice
The outer packaging states that the product is latex free	As above
The inner packaging states that the product is latex free	As above (dressings are often stored removed from outer packaging)
There is information on the inner packaging relating to application (which side to apply – non adhesive only)	Specialists and generalists have stated that this needs to be clear on inner packaging (Box and IFUs are commonly not at patients side immediately prior to opening dressing onto sterile field)
There is information on the inner packaging relating to **not cutting**	Clinicians have stated that this needs to be clear on inner packaging (Box and instructions for use (IFU) are commonly not at patients side immediately prior to opening dressing onto sterile filed)
OPENING & PREPERATION FOR USE	
Clinical information including application, contraindications & wear time can be easily identified in the instructions for use	Specialists have stated that clinical information not included on packaging information should be easily identified to facilitate efficient clinically effective decision making
The dressing is indicated for use under compression therapy	To facilitate an appropriate clinical choice
The IFU contains information relating to suitability for use under compression	Specialists have stated that clinical information not included on packaging

	information should be easily identified to facilitate efficient clinically effective decision making
There is an indicator illustrating where to open the packet or this is obvious	To facilitate an efficient and standardised dressing preparation technique
The individual packaging is easy to open and allows the dressing to come out easily whilst maintaining product sterility	Clinicians stated that inner packaging needs to be easy to open to a facilitate Aseptic non touch technique (ANTT) in line with best practice thus promoting patient confidence
CLINICAL USE	
The dressing is conformable	Clinical feedback suggests that the dressing needed to be able to conform around contours of the body to optimise absorbency
The dressing can absorb and retain fluid	Clinicians stated this was essential that the product was capable of increased exudate management as its primary purpose
The dressing can absorb and retain fluid under compression	Clinicians who undertake compression bandaging stated this was essential
The dressing has a protective backing (non-adhesive only)	Clinicians stated this is useful in non-adherent dressings to reduce strikethrough, others suggested that this could lead to an overly extended wear time with subsequent increased risk of saturation and maceration. Some clinicians stated double sided may be beneficial for error free application and ability to layer if clinically appropriate. This suggests a choice would be required to meet clinical need.
The dressing maintains integrity when fluid is absorbed	Clinicians acknowledged that some Superabsorbent dressings contents will sag within the dressing once exudate is absorbed
The adhesive border effectively adheres to peri-wound skin (Adhesive only)	Clinicians state that the adhesive dressings need to be able to be sufficiently adherent to remain in place for intended wear time

DISPOSAL	
Packaging indicates that it can be recycled	Clinicians indicated that the ability to be able to recycle packaging is an important environmental factor

Figure 3 – NHS Clinical Criteria Inclusion Superabsorbent Dressings

4.2.2 Criteria explanation- Exclusion (Superabsorbent dressings)

To capture true representation of clinical opinion, this report also aims to capture criteria that were raised, but not included as final criteria when the evaluation of Superabsorbent dressings took place.

Excluded Criteria	Rationale for exclusion
There is a general standardised absorbency rating visible on the box and inner packaging	Clinicians have stated that this information would facilitate clinical decision making across all wound categories however currently there is no existing standardised rating. (See section 7.11 future recommendations)
Indicator on surface of dressing that suggests when dressing is at full absorbency	Some clinicians stated this would be useful to inform frequency of dressing change however validation across specialist groups suggests that other clinical /patient needs be considered when determining dressing change (e.g. type/condition of wound patient comfort choice, odour).
There is a clinically useful range of sizes available	To facilitate consistency of dressing use when complying to a formulary and for individual patient need. Sizes available on the NHS framework are recorded within the matrix of the report
The absorbed fluid is dispersed evenly within the dressing without bulking	Clinicians have stated that some dressings can become bulky and/or uneven when fluid is absorbed. Specialists have raised concerns around profiling of dressings and effect on compression therapy No standardised test used for all products. See section 7.11 future recommendations
The mode of fluid handling prevents maceration to the peri-wound skin	Currently no standardised test used for all products. See section 7.11 future recommendations

Outer packaging is appropriate for size of dressings to minimise waste	Clinicians indicated that the use of minimal packaging is important for both storage and for the environment Outer packaging varies according to size of dressings therefore not able to be evaluated consistently across all sizes
Disposal of the dressing into waste after removal	The dressing is clinical waste therefore local policy to be followed

Figure 4 – NHS Clinical Criteria Exclusion Superabsorbent Dressings

Product Evaluation

Evaluation methodologies were defined for each and every clinical criterion. They reflected a real or simulated clinical environment. Methods used included simulated clinical use; user surveys based on previous experience of products and independently conducted objective, recognised laboratory tests.

Laboratory Tests

Laboratory results provide quantifiable results against the defined criteria; for superabsorbent dressings these include:

- Free Swell Absorption Capacity and Fluid Retention (SMTL method TM-404)
- Absorbency Under Compression Test (SMTL method TM-414)

Products were supplied in a ‘ward ready’ unit of issue as would be found by clinical staff on accessing a store area in their clinical environment.

The tests were formulated to move through the key aspects of product use using the NHS Clinical Evaluation Team product cycle:

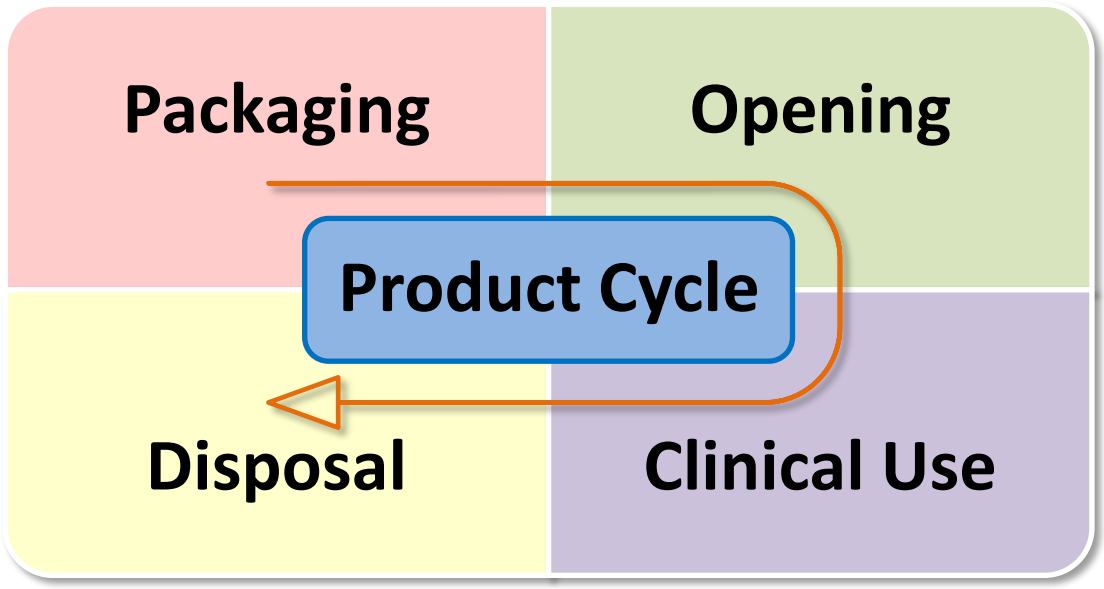

Figure 5 – NHS Clinical Evaluation Team Product Cycle

The evaluation product was ordered and picked from the NHS distribution centres. Products evaluated have been stored post evaluation for a period of three months after publication of this review.

Practising NHS clinical staff were invited to review the products in accordance with the developed criteria. It was not possible to 'blind' the evaluations; in the sense that the evaluators were aware of the product brand; however, the product to be evaluated was independently picked in accordance with the product selection criteria in Section 2 and prepared for evaluation by colleagues who were not otherwise involved in the process.

Each clinical evaluator entered data independently and without inter-rater comparison into their own spreadsheet. These were then collated, reviewed and summarised by the clinical specialist lead for the project.

As part of the evaluation preparation, each evaluator was given a more detailed and product specific definition for each of the scores

The defined criteria either prompted a 'yes/no' answer, or a score was given between 0 and 2, or 0 and 3 as follows:

Score	Meaning
0	This does not meet the criteria
1	This partially meets the criteria
2	This meets the criteria
3	This exceeds the criteria

Figure 6 – NHS Clinical Evaluation Team scoring methods

These numerical scores across all evaluators were totalled and a mean value determined. This mean value has then been converted into a star rating (see matrix below).

The mean values convert to a star rating in accordance with the following table:

Point scored	Star value
0 **to 0.99**	**0 stars**
1 **to 1.24**	**1 Star**
1.25 **to 1.74**	**1.5 Stars**
1.75 **to 2.24**	**2 Stars**
2.25 **to 2.74**	**2.5 Stars**
2.75 **to 3**	**3 Stars**

Figure 7 – conversion of mean scores to star rating

The above scoring mechanisms will not be followed where the criterion identified by the CET cannot reasonably exceed expectations. For example, if the clinical criterion was whether the removal of an adhesive dressing was atraumatic and with the individual patient reporting no pain or skin damage, then it cannot reasonably be expected that a product could exceed that criteria. Therefore, in such circumstances, the relevant criteria will be based on the scoring regime of:

a. If the criterion is a Yes/No response, the responses will be converted into aggregate percentages and then star ratings as follows:

Percentages	Star value
0% to 24.99%	**0 star**
25% to 49.99%	**1 star**
50% to 74.99%	**1.5 stars**
75% to 100%	**2 stars**

Figure 8 – Percentage scores to star rating

b. For other subjective criteria, the responses will be converted into mean scores and then star ratings as follows:

Point scored	Star value
0 to 0.49	**0 star**
0.5 to 0.99	**1 star**
1 to 1.49	**1.5 stars**
1.5 to 2	**2 stars**

Figure 9 – Points scores to star rating

On the basis that clinical evaluators will be providing scores as follows:

- 0 stars – Does not meet the criteria
- 1 star – Partially meets the criteria
- 2 stars – Meets the criteria

All supplemental products used in the evaluation are in use in the NHS and available through the national catalogue (e.g. gloves, medical tape and syringes).

Evaluators were also encouraged to record comments where they felt it necessary to provide rationale for their scoring and answers.

The results obtained have been validated by the NHS Clinical Evaluation Team moderation committee for consistency of scoring and interpretation. These results are presented in the product assessment reports herein.

5. Product Assessment Results

The following product assessment results pages show the tested clinical criteria listed vertically on the left-hand side of the page with the tested device found horizontally across the top of the matrix. The accompanying photographs were taken during evaluation. These photographs are of sample products provided for evaluation. Lot numbers were recorded and samples have been retained in storage following the completion of evaluation.

The products represented are the range of suppliers and brands available through the NHS national procurement provider's framework as of September 2017.

Results can be seen within the product matrix. Each clinical product has been given a star rating and the evaluator's collated comments are included in the matrix.

The product assessment results have been divided into 3 sub-categories of adhesive, non-adhesive Superabsorbent dressings and those with a silicone wound contact layer, as listed by NHS Supply Chain

6. Using the Product Assessment Results Matrix

The clinical criteria displayed are designed to capture key clinical elements that health professionals may wish to consider when reviewing/selecting products for their own clinical practice. The report is intended as a guidance tool to aid product selection and is not intended to be a universal determination of the clinical effectiveness of any particular product. Each clinical practitioner should therefore make their own assessments taking into account all relevant considerations for their particular situation.

Likewise not all clinical criteria will be relevant or important for all patient groups;

I.e. The dressing can absorb and retain fluid under compression

Clinicians may identify the criteria that most represent their clinical environment and patient demographic, and may choose to build their own hierarchy of importance to aid product(s) selection for patient outcome goals using the matrix presented in this report, their own clinical knowledge, as well as any other resources (including publications) to provide informed choice and transparency of their decision for product(s) being used.

SUPERABSORBENT DRESSING

NHS Clinical Evaluation Team
by the NHS, for the NHS

	365 HEALTHCARE
	
BRAND	365 Absorbent
NPC	EJE181
MPC	36590083
BASE DESCRIPTION	Non-adhesive super absorbent dressing sterile
SIZES AVAILABLE ON CATALOGUE	10x10cms 10x20cms 20x20cms 20x30cms
PROTECTIVE BACKING (NON ADHESIVE ONLY)	Yes
MANUFACTUER WEAR TIME (DAYS)	7
	Score
The product category is visible on the outer packaging and inner wrapper (Superabsorbent /adhesive (bordered) Superabsorbent dressing)	✓
The indication for use is visible on the outer packaging e.g. for moderately to highly exuding wounds	✗
The indication for use is visible on the inner packaging	✗
The batch number, expiry date and sterility can be found on the outer and inner packaging	✓
There is information on the outer packaging relating to storage	✓
The quantity of dressings contained is stated on the outer packaging	✓
Size of dressing stated relates to absorbent pad (excluding border) and is displayed on the outer packaging	✗
Size of dressing relates to absorbent pad (excluding border) an is displayed on inner packaging	✗
The dressing size and shape can be easily visualised/identified without opening the individual packaging	★★ (2.00)*
The IFU states product is latex free	✓
The outer packaging states that the product is latex free	✓
The inner packaging states that the product is latex free	✓
There is clear information on the inner packaging relating to application (NON ADHESIVE ONLY)	★★★ (0.00)
There is information on the inner packaging relating to not cutting	✗
Clinical information including application, contraindications & wear time can be easily identified in the instructions for use	★★★ (2.75)
The information leaflet indicates that the dressing is indicated for use under compression therapy	✓
There is an indicator illustrating where to open the packet or this is obvious	★★ (2.00)*
The individual packaging is easy to open and allows the dressing to come out easily whilst maintaining product sterility	★★ (2.00)*
The dressing is conformable	★★★ (1.75)
Absorbency (g/cm²)	1.71 g/cm²
Fluid Retention (g/cm²)	1.18 g/cm²
Absorbency under compression (g/cm²)	0.80 g/cm²
The dressing maintains integrity when fluid is absorbed	★★½ (2.38)
The adhesive border effectively adheres to peri area skin (Adhesive only)	N/A
Packaging states can be recycled	✓

*Maximum number of 2 stars attainable

SUPERABSORBENT DRESSING

NHS Clinical Evaluation Team
by the NHS, for the NHS

	3M
	
BRAND	**3M Tegaderm Superabsorber**
NPC	**EK054**
MPC	**90702**
BASE DESCRIPTION	**Non-adhesive super absorbent dressing sterile**
SIZES AVAILABLE ON CATALOGUE	**10x10cms 10x20cms 20x20cms 20x30cms**
PROTECTIVE BACKING (NON ADHESIVE ONLY)	**Yes**
MANUFACTUER WEAR TIME (DAYS)	**Clinical judgement**
	Score
The product category is visible on the outer packaging and inner wrapper (Superabsorbent /adhesive (bordered) Superabsorbent dressing)	✓
The indication for use is visible on the outer packaging e.g. for moderately to highly exuding wounds	✗
The indication for use is visible on the inner packaging	✗
The batch number, expiry date and sterility can be found on the outer and inner packaging	✓
There is information on the outer packaging relating to storage	✓
The quantity of dressings contained is stated on the outer packaging	✓
Size of dressing stated relates to absorbent pad (excluding border) and is displayed on the outer packaging	✓
Size of dressing relates to absorbent pad (excluding border) an is displayed on inner packaging	✓
The dressing size and shape can be easily visualised/identified without opening the individual packaging	★★½ (1.00)*
The IFU states product is latex free	✗
The outer packaging states that the product is latex free	✗
The inner packaging states that the product is latex free	✗
There is clear information on the inner packaging relating to application (NON ADHESIVE ONLY)	★★½☆ (1.38)
There is information on the inner packaging relating to not cutting	✗
Clinical information including application, contraindications & wear time can be easily identified in the instructions for use	★★☆ (2.00)
The information leaflet indicates that the dressing is indicated for use under compression therapy	✓
There is an indicator illustrating where to open the packet or this is obvious	★★½ (1.00)*
The individual packaging is easy to open and allows the dressing to come out easily whilst maintaining product sterility	★★ (1.88)*
The dressing is conformable	★★½☆ (1.38)
Absorbency (g/cm²)	1.54 g/cm²
Fluid Retention (g/cm²)	1.34 g/cm²
Absorbency under compression (g/cm²)	0.86 g/cm²
The dressing maintains integrity when fluid is absorbed	★★☆ (1.88)
The adhesive border effectively adheres to peri area skin (Adhesive only)	N/A
Packaging states can be recycled	✓

*Maximum number of 2 stars attainable

SUPERABSORBENT DRESSING

NHS Clinical Evaluation Team
by the NHS, for the NHS

	ADVANCIS MEDICAL		
			
BRAND	**Eclypse**	**Eclypse Border**	**Eclypse Adherent**
NPC	**EJE032**	**EKH061**	**EKH034**
MPC	**CR3769**	**CR4296**	**CR3881**
BASE DESCRIPTION	**Non-adhesive super absorbent dressing sterile**	**Adhesive super absorbent dressing sterile**	**Adhesive Superabsorbent dressing with silicone contact layer**
SIZES AVAILABLE ON CATALOGUE	**10x10cms 20x30cms 15x15cms 10x20cms 20x20cms 40x60cms 47x55cms (leg wrap) 33x48cms (leg wrap) 60x70cms (leg wrap) 30x51cms (Contour)**	**15x15 20x30 10x20 (oval) 15x20 (oval)20x30 (oval)**	**10x20cms 20x 30cms 10x10cms 15x15cms**
PROTECTIVE BACKING (NON ADHESIVE ONLY)	**Yes**	**N/A**	**Yes**
MANUFACTUER WEAR TIME (DAYS)	**7**	**7**	**7**
	Score	**Score**	**Score**
The product category is visible on the outer packaging and inner wrapper (Superabsorbent /adhesive (bordered) Superabsorbent dressing)	✓	✓	✓
The indication for use is visible on the outer packaging e.g. for moderately to highly exuding wounds	✗	✗	✗
The indication for use is visible on the inner packaging	✗	✗	✗
The batch number, expiry date and sterility can be found on the outer and inner packaging	✓	✓	✓
There is information on the outer packaging relating to storage	✓	✓	✓
The quantity of dressings contained is stated on the outer packaging	✓	✓	✓
Size of dressing stated relates to absorbent pad (excluding border) and is displayed on the outer packaging	✗	✗	✗
Size of dressing relates to absorbent pad (excluding border) an is displayed on inner packaging	✗	✗	✗
The dressing size and shape can be easily visualised/identified without opening the individual packaging	★★½ (1.00)*	★★½ (1.00)*	★★½ (1.00)*
The IFU states product is latex free	✗	✗	✗
The outer packaging states that the product is latex free	✗	✗	✗
The inner packaging states that the product is latex free	✗	✗	✗
There is clear information on the inner packaging relating to application (NON ADHESIVE ONLY)	★★★ (0.00)	N/A	★★★ (0.00)
There is information on the inner packaging relating to not cutting	✗	✗	✗
Clinical information including application, contraindications & wear time can be easily identified in the instructions for use	★★★ (2.13)	★★★ (2.00)	★★★ (2.00)
The information leaflet indicates that the dressing is indicated for use under compression therapy	✓	✓	✓
There is an indicator illustrating where to open the packet or this is obvious	★★½ (1.00)*	★★½ (1.00)*	★★½ (1.13)*
The individual packaging is easy to open and allows the dressing to come out easily whilst maintaining product sterility	★★ (1.92)*	★★ (1.92)*	★★ (1.92)*
The dressing is conformable	★★½ (1.50)	★★½ (1.63)	★★½ (1.44)
Absorbency (g/cm²)	1.44 g/cm²	1.47 g/cm²	1.38 g/cm²
Fluid Retention (g/cm²)	1.12 g/cm²	1.13 g/cm²	1.14 g/cm²
Absorbency under compression (g/cm²)	0.85 g/cm²	0.82 g/cm²	0.74 g/cm²
The dressing maintains integrity when fluid is absorbed	★★½ (1.30)	★★★ (2.19)	★★★ (1.90)
The adhesive border effectively adheres to peri area skin (Adhesive only)	N/A	★★ (2.00)*	N/A
Packaging states can be recycled	✓	✓	✓

*Maximum number of 2 stars attainable

SUPERABSORBENT DRESSING

NHS Clinical Evaluation Team
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	ASPEN MEDICAL
	
BRAND	SorbXtra
NPC	EME095
MPC	7001
BASE DESCRIPTION	Non-adhesive super absorbent dressing sterile
SIZES AVAILABLE ON CATALOGUE	10x10cms 10x20cms 20x20cms 20x30cms
PROTECTIVE BACKING (NON ADHESIVE ONLY)	No
MANUFACTUER WEAR TIME (DAYS)	Clinical judgement
	Score
The product category is visible on the outer packaging and inner wrapper (Superabsorbent /adhesive (bordered) Superabsorbent dressing)	✓
The indication for use is visible on the outer packaging e.g. for moderately to highly exuding wounds	✗
The indication for use is visible on the inner packaging	✗
The batch number, expiry date and sterility can be found on the outer and inner packaging	✓
There is information on the outer packaging relating to storage	✓
The quantity of dressings contained is stated on the outer packaging	✓
Size of dressing stated relates to absorbent pad (excluding border) and is displayed on the outer packaging	✓
Size of dressing relates to absorbent pad (excluding border) an is displayed on inner packaging	✓
The dressing size and shape can be easily visualised/identified without opening the individual packaging	★☆ (0.75)*
The IFU states product is latex free	✗
The outer packaging states that the product is latex free	✗
The inner packaging states that the product is latex free	✗
There is clear information on the inner packaging relating to application (NON ADHESIVE ONLY)	☆☆☆ (0.00)
There is information on the inner packaging relating to not cutting	✗
Clinical information including application, contraindications & wear time can be easily identified in the instructions for use	★½☆ (1.50)
The information leaflet indicates that the dressing is indicated for use under compression therapy	✓
There is an indicator illustrating where to open the packet or this is obvious	★★ (1.75)*
The individual packaging is easy to open and allows the dressing to come out easily whilst maintaining product sterility	★★ (2.00)*
The dressing is conformable	★★☆ (1.75)
Absorbency (g/cm²)	1.53 g/cm²
Fluid Retention (g/cm²)	1.29 g/cm²
Absorbency under compression (g/cm²)	0.79 g/cm²
The dressing maintains integrity when fluid is absorbed	★★½ (2.50)
The adhesive border effectively adheres to peri area skin (Adhesive only)	N/A
Packaging states can be recycled	✗

*Maximum number of 2 stars attainable

SUPERABSORBENT DRESSING

NHS Clinical Evaluation Team
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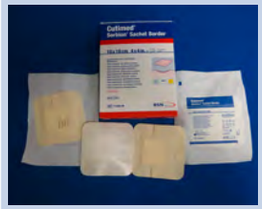
	BSN MEDICAL			
				
BRAND	**Cutimed Sorbion Sachet Extra**	**Cutimed Sorbion Sachet S**	**Cutimed Sorbion Sana**	**Cutimed Sorbion Sachet Border**
NPC	**EME106**	**EJE157**	**EME116**	**EJE151**
MPC	**73234-01**	**7323209**	**73233-25**	**73236-06**
BASE DESCRIPTION	**Non-adhesive super absorbent dressing sterile**	**Non-adhesive super absorbent dressing sterile**	**Non-adhesive super absorbent dressing sterile ATRAUMATIC**	**Adhesive super absorbent dressing sterile**
SIZES AVAILABLE ON CATALOGUE	**5x5cms 7.5 x7.5cms**	**7.5x7.5cms 5x12cms 10x10cms 10x20cms 20x20cms 20x 30cms 15x15cms 10x10cms (Drainage) 8x8cms (multistar) 14 x14cms (multistar) 25x45cms (XL)**	**8.5x8.5cms 12x12cms 12x22cms 22x22cms 22x32cms**	**7.5x7.5cms 10x10cms 15x15cms 15x25cms**
PROTECTIVE BACKING (NON ADHESIVE ONLY)	**No**	**No**	**No**	**N/A**
MANUFACTUER WEAR TIME (DAYS)	**7**	**4**	**7**	**4**
	Score	**Score**	**Score**	**Score**
The product category is visible on the outer packaging and inner wrapper (Superabsorbent /adhesive (bordered) Superabsorbent dressing)	✓	✓	✓	✓
The indication for use is visible on the outer packaging e.g. for moderately to highly exuding wounds	✗	✗	✗	✗
The indication for use is visible on the inner packaging	✗	✗	✗	✗
The batch number, expiry date and sterility can be found on the outer and inner packaging	✓	✓	✓	✓
There is information on the outer packaging relating to storage	✓	✓	✓	✓
The quantity of dressings contained is stated on the outer packaging	✓	✓	✓	✓
Size of dressing stated relates to absorbent pad (excluding border) and is displayed on the outer packaging	✗	✗	✗	✗
Size of dressing relates to absorbent pad (excluding border) an is displayed on inner packaging	✗	✗	✗	✗
The dressing size and shape can be easily visualised/identified without opening the individual packaging	★★ (2.00)*	★★ (2.00)*	★★ (2.00)*	★★ (2.00)*
The IFU states product is latex free	✗	✗	✗	✗
The outer packaging states that the product is latex free	✗	✗	✗	✗
The inner packaging states that the product is latex free	✗	✗	✗	✗
There is clear information on the inner packaging relating to application (NON ADHESIVE ONLY)	★★★ (0.00)	★★★ (0.00)	★★★ (0.00)	N/A
There is information on the inner packaging relating to not cutting	✓	✓	✓	✓
Clinical information including application, contraindications & wear time can be easily identified in the instructions for use	★★★ (2.00)	★★★ (2.00)	★★★ (2.00)	★★★ (2.00)
The information leaflet indicates that the dressing is indicated for use under compression therapy	✓	✓	✗	✓
There is an indicator illustrating where to open the packet or this is obvious	★★ (1.75)*	★★ (1.75)*	★★ (1.75)*	★★ (1.75)*
The individual packaging is easy to open and allows the dressing to come out easily whilst maintaining product sterility	★★ (1.80)*	★★ (2.00)*	★★ (2.00)*	★★ (2.00)*
The dressing is conformable	★★½ (1.50)	★★½ (1.63)	★★½ (1.25)	★★½ (1.44)
Absorbency (g/cm²)	2.27 g/cm²	2.57 g/cm²	2.08 g/cm²	1.91 g/cm²
Fluid Retention (g/cm²)	1.81 g/cm²	2.14 g/cm²	1.88 g/cm²	1.78 g/cm²
Absorbency under compression g/cm²)	1.08 g/cm²	1.10 g/cm²	1.18 g/cm²	1.28 g/cm²
The dressing maintains integrity when fluid is absorbed	★★★ (2.88)	★★★½ (2.25)	★★★½ (2.63)	★★★½ (2.44)
The adhesive border effectively adheres to peri area skin (Adhesive only)	N/A	N/A	N/A	★★ (1.80)*
Packaging states can be recycled	✓	✓	✓	✓

*Maximum number of 2 stars attainable

SUPERABSORBENT DRESSING

NHS Clinical Evaluation Team
by the NHS, for the NHS

	CRAWFORD PHARMACEUTICALS	
		
BRAND	**Kerramax Care**	**Kerramax Care Border Adhesive**
NPC	**EME023**	**EME078**
MPC	**PRD500-120**	**CWL1000**
BASE DESCRIPTION	**Non-adhesive super absorbent dressing sterile**	**Adhesive super absorbent dressing sterile**
SIZES AVAILABLE ON CATALOGUE	**5x5cms 10x10cms 10x22cms 20x22cms 20x30cms 20x50cms 21x23cms (multisite)**	**16x16cms 16x26cms 26x26cms**
PROTECTIVE BACKING (NON ADHESIVE ONLY)	**No**	**N/A**
MANUFACTUER WEAR TIME (DAYS)	**Clinical judgement**	**Clinical judgement**
	Score	**Score**
The product category is visible on the outer packaging and inner wrapper (Superabsorbent /adhesive (bordered) Superabsorbent dressing)	✓	✓
The indication for use is visible on the outer packaging e.g. for moderately to highly exuding wounds	✗	✗
The indication for use is visible on the inner packaging	✗	✗
The batch number, expiry date and sterility can be found on the outer and inner packaging	✓	✓
There is information on the outer packaging relating to storage	✓	✓
The quantity of dressings contained is stated on the outer packaging	✓	✓
Size of dressing stated relates to absorbent pad (excluding border) and is displayed on the outer packaging	✗	✗
Size of dressing relates to absorbent pad (excluding border) an is displayed on inner packaging	✗	✗
The dressing size and shape can be easily visualised/identified without opening the individual packaging	★★ (0.88)*	★★ (2.00)*
The IFU states product is latex free	✗	✗
The outer packaging states that the product is latex free	✗	✗
The inner packaging states that the product is latex free	✗	✗
There is clear information on the inner packaging relating to application (NON ADHESIVE ONLY)	★★★ (0.00)	N/A
There is information on the inner packaging relating to not cutting	✗	✗
Clinical information including application, contraindications & wear time can be easily identified in the instructions for use	★★½ (2.38)	★★½ (2.38)
The information leaflet indicates that the dressing is indicated for use under compression therapy	✓	✓
There is an indicator illustrating where to open the packet or this is obvious	★½ (1.38)*	★★ (1.50)*
The individual packaging is easy to open and allows the dressing to come out easily whilst maintaining product sterility	★★ (1.50)*	★★ (1.75)*
The dressing is conformable	★★★ (1.80)	★★★ (1.90)
Absorbency (g/cm²)	1.50 g/cm²	1.57 g/cm²
Fluid Retention (g/cm²)	1.36 g/cm²	1.29 g/cm²
Absorbency under compression (g/cm²)	0.83 g/cm²	0.77 g/cm²
The dressing maintains integrity when fluid is absorbed	★★★ (2.13)	★★★ (2.13)
The adhesive border effectively adheres to peri area skin (Adhesive only)	N/A	★★ (2.00)*
Packaging states can be recycled	✓	✓

*Maximum number of 2 stars attainable

SUPERABSORBENT DRESSING

NHS Clinical Evaluation Team
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	H&R HEALTHCARE
	
BRAND	**Kliniderm superabsorbent**
NPC	**EKH073**
MPC	**40511702**
BASE DESCRIPTION	**Non-adhesive super absorbent dressing sterile**
SIZES AVAILABLE ON CATALOGUE	**7.5x7.5cms 10x10cms 10x20cms 20x20cms 20x30cm 20x40cm**
PROTECTIVE BACKING (NON ADHESIVE ONLY)	**Yes**
MANUFACTUER WEAR TIME (DAYS)	**Clinical judgement**
	Score
The product category is visible on the outer packaging and inner wrapper (Superabsorbent /adhesive (bordered) Superabsorbent dressing)	✓
The indication for use is visible on the outer packaging e.g. for moderately to highly exuding wounds	✓
The indication for use is visible on the inner packaging	✗
The batch number, expiry date and sterility can be found on the outer and inner packaging	✓
There is information on the outer packaging relating to storage	✓
The quantity of dressings contained is stated on the outer packaging	✓
Size of dressing stated relates to absorbent pad (excluding border) and is displayed on the outer packaging	✓
Size of dressing relates to absorbent pad (excluding border) an is displayed on inner packaging	✗
The dressing size and shape can be easily visualised/identified without opening the individual packaging	★★☆ (1.00)*
The IFU states product is latex free	✗
The outer packaging states that the product is latex free	✗
The inner packaging states that the product is latex free	✗
There is clear information on the inner packaging relating to application (NON ADHESIVE ONLY)	☆☆☆ (0.00)
There is information on the inner packaging relating to not cutting	✗
Clinical information including application, contraindications & wear time can be easily identified in the instructions for use	★★☆ (2.13)
The information leaflet indicates that the dressing is indicated for use under compression therapy	✗
There is an indicator illustrating where to open the packet or this is obvious	★★ (2.00)*
The individual packaging is easy to open and allows the dressing to come out easily whilst maintaining product sterility	★★ (2.00)*
The dressing is conformable	★★☆ (1.58)
Absorbency (g/cm²)	1.34 g/cm²
Fluid Retention (g/cm²)	1.10 g/cm²
Absorbency under compression (g/cm²)	0.60 g/cm²
The dressing maintains integrity when fluid is absorbed	★★☆ (1.30)
The adhesive border effectively adheres to peri area skin (Adhesive only)	N/A
Packaging states can be recycled	✓

*Maximum number of 2 stars attainable

SUPERABSORBENT DRESSING

NHS Clinical Evaluation Team
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	L&R MEDICAL UK LTD		
			
BRAND	**Flivasorb**	**Vliwasorb Pro**	**Flivasorb Adhesive**
NPC	**EME027**	**EJA219**	**EME071**
MPC	**25811**	**32642**	**30994**
BASE DESCRIPTION	**Non-adhesive super absorbent dressing sterile**	**Non-adhesive super absorbent dressing sterile**	**Adhesive super absorbent dressing sterile**
SIZES AVAILABLE ON CATALOGUE	**10x10cms 10x20cms 20x20cms 20x30cms**	**12.5 x12.5cms 12.5x 22.5cms 22x22cms 22x32cms**	**12x12cms 15x15cms 15x25cms**
PROTECTIVE BACKING (NON ADHESIVE ONLY)	**Yes**	**Yes**	**N/A**
MANUFACTUER WEAR TIME (DAYS)	**clinical judgement**	**7**	**Not stated in IFU**
	Score	**Score**	**Score**
The product category is visible on the outer packaging and inner wrapper (Superabsorbent /adhesive (bordered) Superabsorbent dressing)	✓	✓	✓
The indication for use is visible on the outer packaging e.g. for moderately to highly exuding wounds	✗	✗	✗
The indication for use is visible on the inner packaging	✗	✗	✗
The batch number, expiry date and sterility can be found on the outer and inner packaging	✓	✓	✓
There is information on the outer packaging relating to storage	✗	✓	✓
The quantity of dressings contained is stated on the outer packaging	✗	✓	✓
Size of dressing stated relates to absorbent pad (excluding border) and is displayed on the outer packaging	✗	✓	✗
Size of dressing relates to absorbent pad (excluding border) an is displayed on inner packaging	✗	✗	✗
The dressing size and shape can be easily visualised/identified without opening the individual packaging	★★ (1.00)*	★★ (1.00)*	★★ (1.00)*
The IFU states product is latex free	✗	✗	✗
The outer packaging states that the product is latex free	✗	✗	✗
The inner packaging states that the product is latex free	✗	✗	✗
There is clear information on the inner packaging relating to application (NON ADHESIVE ONLY)	(0.00)	★★ (2.00)	N/A
There is information on the inner packaging relating to not cutting	✗	✗	✗
Clinical information including application, contraindications & wear time can be easily identified in the instructions for use	★★ (2.00)	★★ (2.13)	★★ (2.00)
The information leaflet indicates that the dressing is indicated for use under compression therapy	✗	✓	✗
There is an indicator illustrating where to open the packet or this is obvious	★★ (2.00)*	★★ (2.00)*	★★ (2.00)*
The individual packaging is easy to open and allows the dressing to come out easily whilst maintaining product sterility	★★ (1.88)*	★★ (2.00)*	★★ (2.00)*
The dressing is conformable	★★ (1.38)	★★ (1.55)	★★ (1.44)
Absorbency (g/cm²)	1.51 g/cm²	1.38 g/cm²	1.55 g/cm²
Fluid Retention (g/cm²)	1.19 g/cm²	1.14 g/cm²	1.32 g/cm²
Absorbency under compression (g/cm²)	1.01 g/cm²	0.74 g/cm²	1.01 g/cm²
The dressing maintains integrity when fluid is absorbed	★★ (2.19)	★★ (2.60)	★★ (2.24)
The adhesive border effectively adheres to peri area skin (Adhesive only)	N/A	N/A	★★ (2.00)*
Packaging states can be recycled	✓	✓	✓

*Maximum number of 2 stars attainable

SUPERABSORBENT DRESSING

NHS Clinical Evaluation Team
by the NHS, for the NHS

	MOLYNLYCKE HEALTHCARE LTD
	
BRAND	**Mextra Superabsorbent**
NPC	**EJE172**
MPC	**610720-00**
BASE DESCRIPTION	**Non-adhesive super absorbent dressing sterile**
SIZES AVAILABLE ON CATALOGUE	**10x10cms 10x15cms 10x20cms 17.5x22.5cms 20x30cms 22x27.5cms 22.5x42.5cms**
PROTECTIVE BACKING (NON ADHESIVE ONLY)	**Yes**
MANUFACTUER WEAR TIME (DAYS)	**7**
	Score
The product category is visible on the outer packaging and inner wrapper (Superabsorbent /adhesive (bordered) Superabsorbent dressing)	✓
The indication for use is visible on the outer packaging e.g. for moderately to highly exuding wounds	✗
The indication for use is visible on the inner packaging	✗
The batch number, expiry date and sterility can be found on the outer and inner packaging	✓
There is information on the outer packaging relating to storage	✓
The quantity of dressings contained is stated on the outer packaging	✓
Size of dressing stated relates to absorbent pad (excluding border) and is displayed on the outer packaging	✗
Size of dressing relates to absorbent pad (excluding border) an is displayed on inner packaging	✗
The dressing size and shape can be easily visualised/identified without opening the individual packaging	★★ (0.88)*
The IFU states product is latex free	✓
The outer packaging states that the product is latex free	✓
The inner packaging states that the product is latex free	✓
There is clear information on the inner packaging relating to application (NON ADHESIVE ONLY)	★★ (2.13)
There is information on the inner packaging relating to not cutting	✗
Clinical information including application, contraindications & wear time can be easily identified in the instructions for use	★★½ (2.25)
The information leaflet indicates that the dressing is indicated for use under compression therapy	✓
There is an indicator illustrating where to open the packet or this is obvious	★★ (2.00)*
The individual packaging is easy to open and allows the dressing to come out easily whilst maintaining product sterility	★★ (2.00)*
The dressing is conformable	★½ (1.50)
Absorbency (g/cm²)	1.55 g/cm²
Fluid Retention (g/cm²)	1.13 g/cm²
Absorbency under compression (g/cm²)	0.89 g/cm²
The dressing maintains integrity when fluid is absorbed	★★½ (2.63)
The adhesive border effectively adheres to peri area skin (Adhesive only)	N/A
Packaging states can be recycled	✓

*Maximum number of 2 stars attainable

SUPERABSORBENT DRESSING

NHS Clinical Evaluation Team
by the NHS, for the NHS

	PAUL HARTMANN LTD	
		
BRAND	**Zetuvit Plus**	**Zetuvit Plus Silicone**
NPC	**EME047**	**EKH092**
MPC	**413711**	**413820**
BASE DESCRIPTION	**Non-adhesive super absorbent dressing sterile**	**Adhesive super absorbent dressing sterile**
SIZES AVAILABLE ON CATALOGUE	**10x10cms 10x20cms 15x20cms 20x25cms 20x40cms**	**8x8cms 12.5x12.5cms 10x20cms 20x20cms 20x25cms**
PROTECTIVE BACKING (NON ADHESIVE ONLY)	**Yes**	**Yes**
MANUFACTUER WEAR TIME (DAYS)	**Clinical Judgement (see IFU)**	**Clinical Judgement (see IFU)**
	Score	**Score**
The product category is visible on the outer packaging and inner wrapper (Superabsorbent /adhesive (bordered) Superabsorbent dressing)	✓	✓
The indication for use is visible on the outer packaging e.g. for moderately to highly exuding wounds	✗	✗
The indication for use is visible on the inner packaging	✗	✗
The batch number, expiry date and sterility can be found on the outer and inner packaging	✓	✓
There is information on the outer packaging relating to storage	✓	✓
The quantity of dressings contained is stated on the outer packaging	✓	✓
Size of dressing stated relates to absorbent pad (excluding border) and is displayed on the outer packaging	✓	✓
Size of dressing relates to absorbent pad (excluding border) an is displayed on inner packaging	✓	✗
The dressing size and shape can be easily visualised/identified without opening the individual packaging	★★½ (1.00)*	★★½ (1.00)*
The IFU states product is latex free	N/A (latex in packaging)	N/A (latex in packaging)
The outer packaging states that the product is latex free	N/A contains latex	N/A contains latex
The inner packaging states that the product is latex free	N/A contains latex	N/A contains latex
There is clear information on the inner packaging relating to application (NON ADHESIVE ONLY)	★★★ (1.80)	★★★ (1.88)
There is information on the inner packaging relating to not cutting	✗	✓
Clinical information including application, contraindications & wear time can be easily identified in the instructions for use	★★½ (1.38)	★★★ (1.75)
The information leaflet indicates that the dressing is indicated for use under compression therapy	✓	✓
There is an indicator illustrating where to open the packet or this is obvious	★★ (2.00)*	★★ (2.00)*
The individual packaging is easy to open and allows the dressing to come out easily whilst maintaining product sterility	★★ (1.50)*	★★ (1.75)*
The dressing is conformable	★★½ (1.54)	★★★ (1.75)
Absorbency (g/cm²)	1.77 g/cm²	1.64 g/cm²
Fluid Retention (g/cm²)	1.17 g/cm²	1.37 g/cm²
Absorbency under compression (g/cm²)	0.85 g/cm²	0.84 g/cm²
The dressing maintains integrity when fluid is absorbed	★★½ (1.74)	★★★ (2.13)
The adhesive border effectively adheres to peri area skin (Adhesive only)	N/A	N/A
Packaging states can be recycled	✓	✓

*Maximum number of 2 stars attainable

SUPERABSORBENT DRESSING

NHS Clinical Evaluation Team
by the NHS, for the NHS

	RICHARDSON HEALTHCARE LTD
	
BRAND	**C-sorb**
NPC	**EJE137**
MPC	**206120**
BASE DESCRIPTION	**Non-adhesive super absorbent dressing sterile**
SIZES AVAILABLE ON CATALOGUE	**7.5x7.5cms 10x10cms 10x20cms 20x20cms 15x25cms 20x30cms**
PROTECTIVE BACKING (NON ADHESIVE ONLY)	**Yes**
MANUFACTUER WEAR TIME (DAYS)	**No IFU**
	Score
The product category is visible on the outer packaging and inner wrapper (Superabsorbent /adhesive (bordered) Superabsorbent dressing)	✓
The indication for use is visible on the outer packaging e.g. for moderately to highly exuding wounds	✗
The indication for use is visible on the inner packaging	✗
The batch number, expiry date and sterility can be found on the outer and inner packaging	✓
There is information on the outer packaging relating to storage	✗
The quantity of dressings contained is stated on the outer packaging	✓
Size of dressing stated relates to absorbent pad (excluding border) and is displayed on the outer packaging	✗
Size of dressing relates to absorbent pad (excluding border) an is displayed on inner packaging	✗
The dressing size and shape can be easily visualised/identified without opening the individual packaging	★★☆ (1.00)*
The IFU states product is latex free	✗
The outer packaging states that the product is latex free	✓
The inner packaging states that the product is latex free	✓
There is clear information on the inner packaging relating to application (NON ADHESIVE ONLY)	☆☆☆ (0.00)
There is information on the inner packaging relating to not cutting	✗
Clinical information including application, contraindications & wear time can be easily identified in the instructions for use	☆☆☆ (0.00)
The information leaflet indicates that the dressing is indicated for use under compression therapy	N/A (No IFU)
There is an indicator illustrating where to open the packet or this is obvious	★★ (2.00)*
The individual packaging is easy to open and allows the dressing to come out easily whilst maintaining product sterility	★★ (2.00)*
The dressing is conformable	★½☆ (1.50)
Absorbency (g/cm²)	1.78 g/cm²
Fluid Retention (g/cm²)	1.35 g/cm²
Absorbency under compression (g/cm²)	0.9 g/cm²
The dressing maintains integrity when fluid is absorbed	☆☆☆ (0.75)
The adhesive border effectively adheres to peri area skin (Adhesive only)	N/A
Packaging states can be recycled	✓

*Maximum number of 2 stars attainable

6.1 Analysis of laboratory testing- Absorbency and Fluid retention and absorbency under Compression.

The results of the laboratory tests illustrate the variation across the range of dressings tested relating to

- Absorbency
- Retention of fluid following application of pressure (representing when a patient may change position resulting in pressure being applied temporarily)
- Absorbency when used under full compression therapy (40mm/hg)

In summary the results indicate that some dressings which absorb higher levels of fluid may not retain this as well as another dressing that shows a slightly lesser fluid absorption capacity when pressure is applied or when used under compression therapy.

It is strongly recommended that when selecting a superabsorbent dressing that all 3 values relating to absorbency, retention and absorbency under compression are considered depending on the required clinical requirements.

7. Further Considerations and Recommendations

Future recommendations

Packaging – Standardised absorbency rating

Across the superabsorbent dressing ranges suppliers often use symbols to indicate the absorbency rating of the product on the outer and inner packaging which may/may not include an illustration of droplets. These ratings differ between suppliers and there is no reference as to what these symbols equate to in terms of amount of fluid. Therefore it is suggested that a standardised absorbency rating across all dressings (not relating to the size of the dressing), would assist clinicians in partnership with patients to make a more informed clinical decision regarding appropriate dressing choice.

7.1.1. Clinical Use

Standardised Testing

Currently there are no standardised laboratory tests available that measure performance of dressings relating to the profiling of dressings when fluid is absorbed or mode of fluid handling that may influence peri-wound maceration which are both significant factors when managing patients wound exudate and subsequent patient outcomes. Whilst CET explored the possibility of commissioning the research and development of testing, this was not feasible in the given time constraints and therefore it is recommended that further independent research and development is undertaken to establish the performance of dressings related to these important clinical aspects.

Barcodes

The CET are aware of the Scan4Safety project and are aligned with the ambitions of the programme, which will deliver significant benefits in terms of patient safety and efficiency, to the NHS. The adoption of standards, driven by Scan4Safety, enables patient, product and location identification and traceability from the supply chain to the patient.

Adoption of these standards has also been shown to improve the quality of care by minimising the risk of human error.

The CET will be considering the inclusion of an evaluation criteria relating to the presence of GS1 compliant barcodes in future reports, as following our clinical conversations we have seen clinical staff asking for it to be included, but further information will be issued by the CET on this to stakeholders in advance.

8. Disclaimer

Reports published by the NHS Clinical Evaluation Team represent general guidance and the team's opinions on products are based on the clinical evaluations undertaken, using the information and clinical criteria generated from extensive stakeholder engagement in line with the team's requirements and evaluation pathway. Reports will be reviewed and updated at the team's discretion as deemed appropriate to reflect any changes.

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The NHS Clinical Evaluation Team shall not be liable to you or anyone else for any decision made or action taken in reliance on the information contained in the reports or for any consequential, special or indirect loss.

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‘Quality, safety and value are at the heart of our work and it’s important that we use our clinical experience to deliver high standards of care while reducing cost and waste in the NHS.’

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NHS Clinical Evaluation Team
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