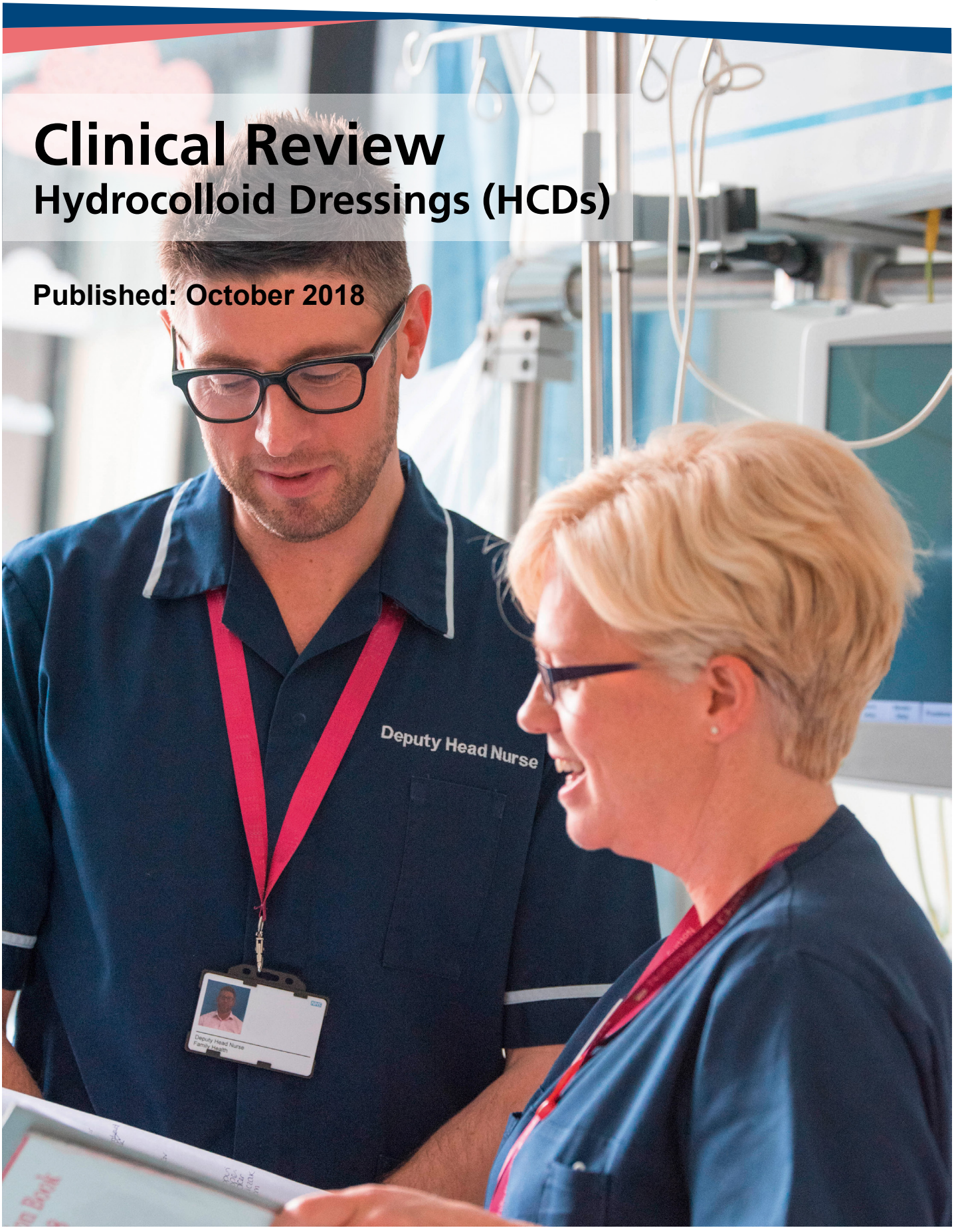
NHS Clinical Evaluation Team
by the NHS, for the NHS

Clinical Review
Hydrocolloid Dressings (HCDs)

Published: 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.

This report, for future product development, recommends and advocates that a product's performance threshold is inherently linked to the knowledge of the clinician using it.

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 Hydrocolloid Dressings (hereafter referred to as HCDs) 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 HCDs for use in future procurement activities.

It is clear from the evidence that HCDs, 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 in 2017 culminating in the production of this report for their approval in October 2018.

Based on 2017 data supplied by NHS Supply Chain, in the NHS, different Trusts are using over 1,370,000 HCDs annually with a total spend circa £1.677million. Spend is higher through prescription sales with an additional £16.28 million (NICE, 2018) giving a total annual spend of around £18 million on these products. There are 24 different product brands in the category supplied via 9 different suppliers through NHS Supply Chain. This report covers the range of products available through that route as of September 2017.

Intelligence about HCDs 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 HCDs from frontline NHS clinicians. This information was used to develop clinical criteria for HCDs, 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: **http://www.supplychain.nhs.uk/cet**.

2. Clinical Context

2.1 Clinical Definition and Scope

For the purposes of this report, a hydrocolloid dressing (HCD) is an adherent, carboxymethylcellulose (CMC) containing wound care product that reacts with even minimal exudate to form a gel with the primary function of rehydrating a wound to promote the healing process. The gelling agent may be of animal or plant derivation and the dressing may, or may not, have an additional adhesive border. The dressing will be water resistant to allow normal washing and skin cleansing.

Hydrocolloid dressings have two layers. The inner layer is a self-adhesive gel-forming polymer that usually consists of carboxymethylcellulose, pectin, gelatine, or an elastomer. This layer absorbs exudate to form a hydrated gel over the wound. A moist environment is created that promotes healing. The outer layer consists of a polyurethane film backing with or without an intervening foam layer, which seals the wound to protect it from bacteria, foreign debris, and shearing.

The category does not include other uses of CMC or hydrocolloid such as dental moulding, gels, pressure relieving devices, base-plates for stoma appliances or wound management bags, devices to secure tubes or items specifically designed for blister prevention. Products for wound care that combine a hydrocolloid with another substance to provide a highly absorbent dressing or to form a gelling fibre are also excluded.

2.2 Intended Clinical Use

The intended use of a HCD in wound care is: to balance the moisture level of a wound so that a moist healing environment is created; to provide thermal insulation, to prevent wound cooling; to provide a barrier to bacteria to reduce infection risk and; to provide a water repellent cover for the wound. The dressing doesn't "heal" the wound but, when used correctly, it may promote normal wound healing including, if necessary, the body's ability to remove dead tissue (Queen, 2009). They are only intended for wounds with low or no exudate as they are not designed to absorb large volumes.

In general, HCDs should not be used on infected wounds unless closely supervised by an expert in wound care and never on wounds critically colonised with anaerobic bacteria present. Other contra-indications to their use include full thickness burns, exposed tendons, if restricted circulation is present and on sinuses when bacteria could accumulate under the dressing (Ousey *et al,* 2012).

2.3 Clinical Practice

HCDs in wound care have been in use for over 30 years and were the first advanced dressing type introduced in the UK. They are now widely accepted and used in all sectors of health care delivery where wounds are present.

In addition to the indications above, they are often used to protect skin from potentially harmful fluid such as wound exudate, leaking around feeding tubes and stomas or when applying larvae to wounds (Hollinwood, 2009) and increasingly to manage leg ulcers, skin grafts or donor sites, acute injuries, minor burns and scalds (Ousey *et al,* 2012).

2.4 Clinical Impact

Holistic patient assessment is required to ensure that the correct dressing type is used. This assessment must be continuous throughout wound healing as dressing properties and requirements may change (e.g. initial removal of infection or devitalised tissue followed by generation of new tissue and skin would potentially require dressings with different properties at each stage).

Whilst HCDs are effective they are only one of many types of advanced wound care dressing available to the NHS and are not effective on every wound type or presentation. The indications for use of HCDs as opposed to other wound dressing types are as given in 2.2 above.

3. Pathway Methods

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

3.1 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 4.

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 using NICE to access online databases: **https://openathens.nice.org.uk/** This identified best practice considerations in the use of HCDs (Powers *et al*, 2016).

The search terms used (see below) generated many returns including 12 Cochrane reviews, however, there was little new information generated by these and many of them compared HCDs with other materials, often with different properties so not directly comparable thus weakening the impact of the reviews.

There was some information found on method of action of HCDs, indications for their use, contra-indications and where they are positioned in the wide range of treatment modalities available for wound care.

Search criteria	Databases searched
• Hydrocolloid • Wound • Both of the above to appear in title or abstract • All publication types	• **NICE website Evidence search https://www.evidence.nhs.uk/** • **NICE website journals and databases** https://openathens.nice.org.uk/ (using Healthcare databases advanced search tool – Science Direct, Clinical Key, ProQuest, Wiley Online, Ovid, Dynamed Plus, CINAHL databases searched) • A further search was undertaken of specialist resources Wounds UK, Wounds International, World Wide Wounds, All Wales Tissue Viability Forum, SIGN and NICE.
Date Range	**Since 2007**
Language	**English**

Figure 1 Literature and other sources searches – **Hydrocolloid 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 Hydrocolloids.

The specification used by the national provider (NHS Supply Chain) has been reviewed to understand what has previously been asked of suppliers of these devices. The specification provides insufficient detail relating to the clinical criteria relevant for these products. However, they have been 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). 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.

Medical Device Directive 93/42/EEC as amended, 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.

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.

All suppliers provided some level 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.

Of the evidence submitted by suppliers, very little was of high quality with only one significant RCT submitted, unfortunately there was potential for bias in the methodology of that study.

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)

3.2 Best Practice Guidelines

There are a variety of published peer reviewed articles and guidelines relevant to HCDs and their use. The key recent publications are from Wounds UK (Ousey *et al,* 2012) and Wounds International (Queen, online undated) who look at the history and current use of these products explaining their place in wound care.

Further authors have looked at wound care formulary construction and development identifying inclusion of HCDs within these (Wounds UK, 2008) and there are many local guidelines produced by individual or aligned NHS providers which include information on selecting the correct dressing type including for HCDs.

Professional organisations have produced guidance specific to certain types of wounds (e.g. Wounds International, 2017; RCN, 2008). There is no national generic or specific guidance on principles of wound care and appropriate use of dressings from NICE.

However, NHS England has introduced a quality requirement to improve wound assessment (and therefore more appropriate use of wound care products) for community-based NHS health care providers (NHS England, 2016a).

3.3 Patient Perspectives

Chronic wounds are prevalent in the UK with an annual cost to the NHS of over £5 billion (Guest *et al,* 2015) and often cause patients to suffer pain, discomfort, social isolation, loss of sleep and depression (Upton, 2014).

When considering the use of HCDs it is important for care providers to be aware that some of these contain pig derived gelatine and that certain patient groups (e.g. Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus and vegans) may object to the use of these. HCDs based on vegetable derived gelling agents are also available and may be first line options for these patients.

Assessment by competent care providers and provision of individualised care reduces the time to healing with commensurate reduction in negative impact on patients and has become a nationally set area for improvement (NHS England, 2016b).

4. NHS Clinical Engagement

In order to develop a shared vision of what is required from HCDs several methods of engagement were used. These events were used to formulate 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 outcomes when 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 HCDs 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
Web-based surveys and e-engagement tools (e.g. email, WebEx, portal based surveys)

4.1 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 or University 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 collected using a portal based survey from the open events 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. The same questions were circulated to all regional tissue viability specialist groups for remote completion.

4.2 Clinical Criteria

The data received from all the NHS clinical conversation events, alongside the extensive data collected from individual experts, was assimilated into a series of clinical criteria by combining clinical conversation findings with those of tissue viability specialist nurses who completed the same survey remotely, giving a total of over 170 respondents.

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.

4.2.1. Criteria explanation- Inclusion

To enhance the readers understanding of this report, and to provide value to the results, an explanation for the defined clinical criteria is captured in Figure 3.

CLINICAL CRITERIA AND REASONS FOR INCLUSION	
Packaging	
All labelling information is present - expiry date, storage, batch Nº, STERILE and method used, single use and storage instructions (to meet MDD 93/42/EEC, ISO 15223-1:2016 or MDR 2017/745)	To confirm that the packaging has information needed by users and meets standards required by EU directive and ISO.
The brand name of the product is on the box.	Our consultation found that some clinical staff may be unfamiliar with products so may not be able to identify them easily.
The dressing size is given on the box.	For time efficiency clinicians found clear identification of size enhanced efficient time management.
Number contained is identified on the box.	Clinical colleagues told us that they need a wide variety of pack sizes depending on the clinical environment. Information is required to control stock levels.
The type of product (hydrocolloid) is identified on the box.	Consultation told us that staff may be unfamiliar with brands used in areas where they don’t work regularly. This helps them reduce waste.
The information in 2 – 5 above is visible on at least one side of the box so that it can be seen when stored on the shelf.	In consultation, we were told that most clinical areas have limited space so the important information above needs to be visible when stored sideways on.
There is a full size image of the dressing on the box.	Our clinical colleagues told us that this makes it quicker and easier to select the right product and thus eliminate waste.
Size of actual hydrocolloid component is given on box and individual product wrapper (bordered products only).	Our consultation found that users need this so they can be sure the active part of the dressing is the right size to prevent waste.
The brand name of the product is on the individual product wrapper. The dressing size is on the individual product wrapper. The type of product (hydrocolloid) is identified on the individual product wrapper	In our consultation we were told that this needs to be in place as some clinical areas store individual products out of the box.

At least one side of the individual product wrapper allows the contents to be seen through it.	Clinical staff told us that this reduces waste from the wrong product or size being opened by mistake.
There are application instructions on the inner wrapper.	This is the last component seen prior to application of the dressing. Some areas store product out of the box and the leaflet may be separated or lost. Sometimes informal carers or patients' relatives apply dressings
INFORMATION LEAFLET CONTAINS: **a)** Name of product **b)** Type of product (hydrocolloid) **c)** Storage instructions **d)** Indications for use, contra-indications and precautions **e)** Application and removal instructions including can be cut **f)** Recommended maximum wear time **g)** That the product is 'hypoallergenic' **h)** Ingredients/composition of the product **i)** That (if applicable) animal-derived ingredients are identified in point g) above	Points a) to f) This is considered essential information following consultation with clinical staff. Points g) and h) Clinical colleagues have told us that they need to know if products contain anything their patients might react to. Point i) Although animal content has been modified, the evidence base (and many of those consulted) supports that information on animal-derived content is needed to allow informed consent.
Opening	
The box has perforations, a cut away or other feature to assist with opening.	Clinical staff said they appreciate a simple opening method rather than a "plain box".
The box opens easily and can repeatedly be securely closed again.	Consultation highlighted that safe storage of product(s) is important to reduce waste, loss of product or risk of product falling on the floor
The individual product wrapper has clear information on where and how to open or this is intuitive.	Our consultation supported that they sometimes found it difficult to identify the separation point on some of these. Patient confidence is a key aspect of developing good clinician-patient relationship, ease of access into the product enhances this early stage of clinical interaction
Flaps or tabs can be gripped easily	Clinical staff told us they have encountered problems with the size or slickness of these that can make them difficult to grip.
The dressing dispenses from the individual product wrapper under control without sticking to said wrapper	Clinical staff told us that sometimes dressings can stick to the wrapper or slide out too easily making it difficult to hit a sterile field. Wound care is a sterile procedure, failure to maintain this results in product wastage, increased time and potential delayed clinical efficacy
Clinical Use	
The dressing does not stick to itself when being applied	Our consultation found that some people have difficulty handling dressings and keeping them in shape during application.
Backing removal and dressing application	Clinicians told us that they have encountered waste when less experienced staff removed

method are easy and intuitive	backings in the wrong order.
The dressing conforms to body shape when applied	Consultation identified here have been occasions when dressings left gaps between themselves and skin or creased enough to allow fluid in or out, reducing the quality of the wound environment and creating a route for bacterial entry.
The dressing securely adheres on application to clean, dry skin when applied as per manufacturer's instructions	Clinical colleagues told us that sometimes hydrocolloid dressings don't properly adhere, including when application instructions are followed.
The dressing stays in place without edges lifting or loosening until planned removal	Clinicians told us that the time a dressing is intended to be left varies between indications for use and treatments so we aren't stating a defined time in use. They also identified that the edges of "shower proof" dressings sometimes lift when wetted. Manufacturers' recommended wear times for each product will be stated in the report.
The edges of the dressing do not ruck, roll or stick to clothing	Consultation found that many clinical staff have experienced this, telling us it leads to waste or patient dissatisfaction.
The dressing does not cause discomfort or a skin reaction whilst in place	Our consultation gave this as a key requirement for patients.
The dressing does not cause any pain on removal	Consultation identified this as the most important perceived factor for patients.
There is no skin damage on removal of the dressing	Our consultation highlighted that many clinical staff have encountered skin tears and inflammation caused by dressing removal.
The wound and surrounding skin can be seen through the dressing	Clinical consultation found that many colleagues value this to prevent unnecessary dressing changes and allow skin assessment for maceration
Disposal	
The box and inner wrapper are recyclable	Our consultation identified that clinical staff regard environmental issues as important to them and that they want recycling to be increased.
Pharmacy or other patient identifying labels applied by health care professionals can be removed	Our colleagues in community told us that they often dispose of packaging in domestic waste at patients' homes. They are concerned about confidentiality as knowing what dressing a patient is using potentially gives information about what type of wound they might have and where they live.

Figure 3- Defining the clinical criteria for Hydrocolloids

4.2.2. Criteria explanation- Exclusion

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 HCDs took place.

Proposed Criteria	Rationale for exclusion
Presence of odour whilst the HCD in use or on removal	This is a common and known factor with HCDs and is to be expected. It is usually due to the wound not the dressing
The dressing can be stuck to itself to contain exudate and reduce infection risk when removed	In use feedback identified that most clinicians dispose immediately and don't need this
Disposal of the dressing into waste after removal	The dressing itself is clinical waste – follow local policy.
Boxes and inner wrappers can be easily flattened or folded to reduce volume in disposal	Clinical staff are increasingly using waste management policies that mean they want to use less bin bags or empty bins less often due to time pressures. However, this factor is entirely subjective being dependent on individuals' physical strength and dexterity.

Figure 4 - Defining the excluded clinical criteria for Hydrocolloids

4.3 Product Evaluation

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

As some products were new to the UK market and had not previously been used by NHS providers, evaluation sites were identified and these products were introduced for patient use to achieve parity in the user survey component of evaluation.

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:

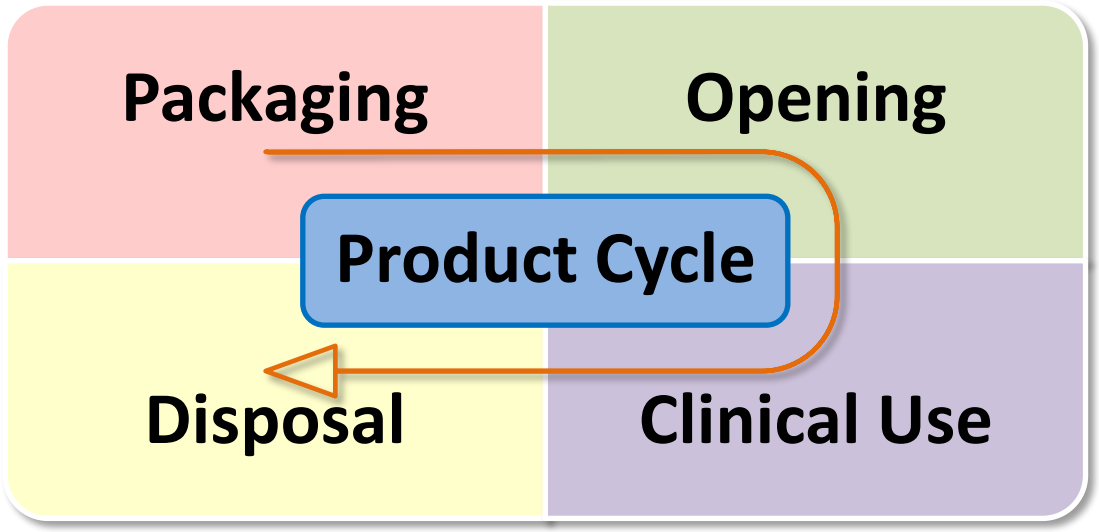


Figure 5 – NHS Clinical Evaluation Team Product Cycle

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.

Practicing 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 spread sheet. 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, which has been represented with a √ / X, or a score was given between 0 and 3, or 0 and 2 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 (Yes)	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 stars**
0.5 to 0.99	**1 star**
1 to 1.49	**1.5 stars**
1.5 to 2.00	**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 and drug labels).

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.

4.4 Product Assessment Results – Laboratory testing

The Surgical Materials Testing Laboratory (SMTL) in Wales was commissioned by the CET to carry out independent testing on all suppliers' dressings on the current framework. Samples were drawn from NHS Supply Chain warehouse at Normanton and were couriered to the SMTL facility in Wales. SMTL were asked to assess the fluid handling capacity, conformability and adhesiveness of the dressings using standard laboratory methods.

Fluid Handling Capacity: This test was based on European Standard method EN 13726-1:2002 Section 3.3 - Fluid Handling Capacity (absorbency plus moisture vapour transmission rate, liquid in contact) and provides total fluid handling capacity results in g/10cm^2 over a 72 hour incubation period.

Conformability: The conformability of the dressings was tested by measuring its extensibility and permanent set using the European Standard method EN 13726-4.

The standard does not have performance requirements for extensibility (Ncm^{-1}) and permanent set (%), however it is recognised that the more extensible a dressing, the lower the extensibility and permanent set results will be.

Adhesiveness: The adhesiveness test was based on the method listed in the British Pharmacopoeia 1988 volume II; Appendix XX H Test 2.

Results are measured as the average force (in Newtons per cm width N/cm) required to detach the samples from stainless steel. The higher the force the more adhesive the products will be.

5. Product Assessment Results

The following product assessment results pages show the tested clinical criteria listed horizontally on the left-hand side of the page with the tested device found vertically 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 for 1 month 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 4 sub-categories of hydrocolloid being 'Standard', 'Bordered', 'Thin' and 'Transparent' as listed in the NHS supply catalogue.

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.

Not all clinical criteria cited in the report will be relevant or important in all environments,

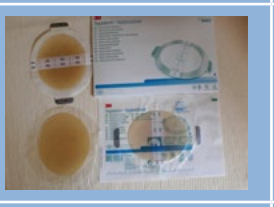
i.e. Recycling of packaging in secondary care.
Not all hospitals have fully implemented recycling of all possible waste so local situations may not enable this to be done.

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

i.e. Different levels of adhesion.
Patients in the community may need dressings that stay in place longer than those in hospital where more frequent dressing changes are more common practice.

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.

All of the products evaluated had brand name, hydrocolloid, dressing size, number contained, expiry date and single use on the boxes and all had the brand name on the individual wrapper. These are therefore not included in the results tables.

	3M UNITED KINGDOM PLC		
TYPE AS LISTED IN CATALOGUE	**Standard**	**Border**	**Thin**
BRAND	**Tegaderm Hydrocolloid**	**Tegaderm Hydrocolloid Border**	**Tegaderm Hydrocolloid Thin**
HYDROCOLLOID			
SIZES AVAILABLE (DIMENSIONS IN CM)	**10x10 - 15x15**	**10X12 (OVAL) - 13X15 (OVAL) - 17.1X16.1 (SACRAL)**	**10x10 - 10x12 oval (bordered) - 13x15 oval (bordered)**
BACKING MATERIAL	**Film**	**Film**	**Film**

CLINICAL CRITERIA	**Score**	**Score**	**Score**
Storage instructions	✗	✗	✗
BOX. Do not use if peel pack damaged or already open	✓	✓	✓
Brand, hydrocolloid, size and number contained on side of box	✗	✗	✗
Full size image of contents on box	✗	✗	✗
Size of hydrocolloid part on box (bordered)	N/A	✓	N/A
"Hydrocolloid" on individual product wrapper	✓	✓	✓
Size of dressing on individual product wrapper	✓	✓	✓
Size of hydrocolloid part on wrapper (bordered only)	N/A	✓	N/A
Application instructions on individual wrapper	✓	✓	✓
Leaflet contains: Name of product; Type of product ("hydrocolloid"); Indications for use, contra-indications & precautions; Application and removal instructions; Recommended maximum wear time in days; Details of any potential allergens; Specific ingredients/composition of the product; Details of any animal-derived content; Explanation of symbols	✓	✓	✓
Application and removal instructions	✓	✓	✓
Recommended maximum wear time in days	7	7	7
Details of any potential allergens	✓	✓	✓
Specific indredients/composition of the product	✗	✗	✗
Details of any animal-derived content	N/A	N/A	N/A
Explanation of symbols	✓	✓	✓
The box has perforations, a cut away or other feature to assist with opening;	✓	✓	✓
The box opens easily and can be securely closed again:	★★½☆☆ (1.63)	★★½☆☆ (1.50)	★★½☆☆ (1.63)
At least one side of the peel pack is transparent allowing the contenct so be seen without opening it	★★½☆☆ (1.63)	★★½☆☆ (1.63)	★★½☆☆ (1.63)
The peel pack has clear instructions of where and how to open	✓	✓	✓
There are no instructions but this is obvious (Yes/no)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Flaps/tabs can be gripped easily.	★★☆☆☆ (1.75)	★★☆☆☆ (1.88)	★★☆☆☆ (1.75)
The dressing dispenses onto the correct area when opened	★★☆☆☆ (1.94)	★★☆☆☆ (1.75)	★★☆☆☆ (2.00)
The wound and surounding skin can be seen through the dressing	★☆☆☆☆ (1.04)	★☆☆☆☆ (1.18)	★★½☆☆ (1.58)
The dressing conforms to a 'flat' body shape (includes sacrum) when applied	★★☆☆☆ (1.79)	★★½☆☆ (1.72)	★★☆☆☆ (1.92)
The dressing conforms to a round body shape (e.g. heel) when applied	★★½☆☆ (1.44)	★★½☆☆ (1.34)	★★½☆☆ (1.25)
The dressing securely adheres to clean, dry skin when applied as per manufacturer's instructions	★★☆☆☆ (1.88)	★★☆☆☆ (2.00)	★★☆☆☆ (1.92)
Dressing application instructions are easy to follow	★★☆☆☆ (1.88)	★★½☆☆ (1.67)	★★☆☆☆ (1.96)
The dressing does not stick to itself when being applied	★★☆☆☆ (1.88)	★★☆☆☆ (1.85)	★★☆☆☆ (1.96)
The dressing stays in place witout edges lifting until planned removal	★★½☆☆ (1.27)	★★½☆☆ (1.72)	★★½☆☆ (1.25)
The dressing does not cause discomfort whilst in place	★★½☆☆ (1.47)	★★½☆☆ (1.67)	★★☆☆☆ (1.92)
The dressing causes minimal pain when removed as per manufacturer's instructions	★★☆☆☆ (2.08)	★★½☆☆ (1.44)	★★½☆☆ (2.25)
There is no skin damage or reaction on dressing removal	★★☆☆☆ (2.04)	★★☆☆☆ (1.95)	★★☆☆☆ (2.17)
Pharmacy or other identifying labels applied by HCPs can easily be removed	★★☆☆☆ (2.00)	★★☆☆☆ (2.00)	★★☆☆☆ (2.00)
Box can be recycled (stated on box)	✓	✓	✓
Peel pack can be recycled (stated on peel pack)	✗	✗	✗
BS EN 13726-1:2002. Fluid handling in g/cm2- 72 hour testing of **a. MVTR** **b. Absorption** **c. Total fluid handling capacity**	a. = 1.89 b. = 3.74 c. = 5.62	a. = 3.47 b. = 3.66 c. = 7.13	a. = 1.66 b. = 1.99 c. = 3.65
BS EN 13726-4:2003. Conformability **Extensibility in Ncm-1 length (a.) width (b.)** **For compression set length in cm (c.) and width (d.)** **lower = more conformable**	a. = 2.8 b. = 3.7 c. = 0.9 d. = 1.5	a. = 3.0 b. = 3.9 c. = 1.3 d. = 1.4	a. = 1.3 b. = 1.5 c. = 0.6 d. = 0.6
SMTL TM-175. Adhesion in N/cm **Higher number = more force required to remove**	0.97	2.36	0.33
Significant additional observations during evaluation			

	ADVANCED MEDICAL SOLUTIONS (PLYMOUTH) LTD	
TYPE AS LISTED IN CATALOGUE	Border	Thin
BRAND	Activheal Hydrcolloid with Foam	Activheal Hydrocolloid Thin
HYDROCOLLOID		
SIZES AVAILABLE (DIMENSIONS IN CM)	10x10 - 15x15 - 18x18	5x7.5 - 10x10 - 15x15 - 15x18
BACKING MATERIAL	Foam	Film

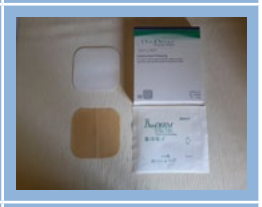
CLINICAL CRITERIA	Score	Score
Storage instructions	✓	✓
BOX. Do not use if peel pack damaged or already open	✓	✓
Brand, hydrocolloid, size and number contained on side of box	✗	✗
Full size image of contents on box	✗	✗
Size of hydrocolloid part on box (bordered)	✓	N/A
"Hydrocolloid" on individual product wrapper	✓	✓
Size of dressing on individual product wrapper	✓	✓
Size of hydrocolloid part on wrapper (bordered only)	✗	N/A
Application instructions on individual wrapper	✗	✗
Leaflet contains: Name of product; Type of product ("hydrocolloid"); Indications for use, contra-indications & precautions; Application and removal instructions; Recommended maximum wear time in days; Details of any potential allergens; Specific ingredients/composition of the product; Details of any animal-derived content; Explanation of symbols	✓	✓
Application and removal instructions	✓	✓
Recommended maximum wear time in days	5	5
Details of any potential allergens	✗	✗
Specific indredients/composition of the product	✗	✗
Details of any animal-derived content	N/A	N/A
Explanation of symbols	✓	✓
The box has perforations, a cut away or other feature to assist with opening;	✗	✗
The box opens easily and can be securely closed again:	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)
At least one side of the peel pack is transparent allowing the contenct so be seen without opening it	★★☆ (1.86)	★★☆ (1.86)
The peel pack has clear instructions of where and how to open	✗	✗
There are no instructions but this is obvious (Yes/no)	✓	✓
Flaps/tabs can be gripped easily.	★★☆ (1.88)	★★☆ (1.63)
The dressing dispenses onto the correct area when opened	★½☆ (1.38)	★½☆ (1.32)
The wound and surounding skin can be seen through the dressing	☆☆☆ (0.29)	★½☆ (1.44)
The dressing conforms to a 'flat' body shape (includes sacrum) when applied	★★☆ (1.96)	★½☆ (1.67)
The dressing conforms to a round body shape (e.g. heel) when applied	★★☆ (1.94)	★½☆ (1.44)
The dressing securely adheres to clean, dry skin when applied as per manufacturer's instructions	★½☆ (1.67)	★☆☆ (1.21)
Dressing application instructions are easy to follow	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (1.96)
The dressing does not stick to itself when being applied	★½☆ (1.67)	★½☆ (1.67)
The dressing stays in place witout edges lifting until planned removal	★½☆ (1.35)	★½☆ (1.29)
The dressing does not cause discomfort whilst in place	★½☆ (1.85)	★½☆ (1.67)
The dressing causes minimal pain when removed as per manufacturer's instructions	★½☆ (1.56)	★★☆ (2.00)
There is no skin damage or reaction on dressing removal	★★☆ (1.95)	★★☆ (2.00)
Pharmacy or other identifying labels applied by HCPs can easily be removed	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)
Box can be recycled (stated on box)	✗	✗
Peel pack can be recycled (stated on peel pack)	✗	✗
BS EN 13726-1:2002. Fluid handling in g/cm2- 72 hour testing of a. MVTR b. Absorption c. Total fluid handling capacity	a. = 12.12 b. = 2.35 c. = 14.47	a. = 11.24 b. = 2.52 c. = 13.76
BS EN 13726-4:2003. Conformability Extensibility in Ncm-1 length (a.) width (b.) For compression set length in cm (c.) and width (d.) lower = more conformable	a. = 1.1 b. = 1.2 c. = 2.1 d. = 2.3	a. = 1.5 b. = 1.9 c. = 1.1 d. = 0.4
SMTL TM-175. Adhesion in N/cm Higher number = more force required to remove	3.45	2.75
Significant additional observations during evaluation	Foam back absorbs water when showering	Dressing stretched and snapped during adhesion test

	B BRAUN MEDICAL LTD	
TYPE AS LISTED IN CATALOGUE	Standard	Transparent
BRAND	Askina Hydro	Askina Biofilm Transparent
HYDROCOLLOID		
SIZES AVAILABLE (DIMENSIONS IN CM)	10x10 - 15x15 - 20x20	10x10 - 20x20
BACKING MATERIAL	Foam	Film

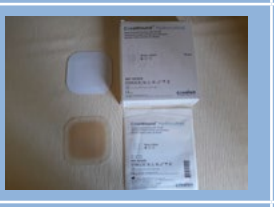
CLINICAL CRITERIA	Score	Score
Storage instructions	✓	✓
BOX. Do not use if peel pack damaged or already open	✓	✓
Brand, hydrocolloid, size and number contained on side of box	✗	✗
Full size image of contents on box	✗	✗
Size of hydrocolloid part on box (bordered)	N/A	N/A
"Hydrocolloid" on individual product wrapper	✓	✓
Size of dressing on individual product wrapper	✓	✓
Size of hydrocolloid part on wrapper (bordered only)	N/A	N/A
Application instructions on individual wrapper	✓	✗
Leaflet contains: Name of product; Type of product ("hydrocolloid"); Indications for use, contra-indications & precautions; Application and removal instructions; Recommended maximum wear time in days; Details of any potential allergens; Specific ingredients/composition of the product; Details of any animal-derived content; Explanation of symbols	✓	✓
Application and removal instructions	✓	✓
Recommended maximum wear time in days	7	7
Details of any potential allergens	✓	✓
Specific indredients/composition of the product	✓	✓
Details of any animal-derived content	N/A	N/A
Explanation of symbols	✗	✓
The box has perforations, a cut away or other feature to assist with opening;	✓	✗
The box opens easily and can be securely closed again:	★★☆ (1.86)	★★☆ (1.75)
At least one side of the peel pack is transparent allowing the contenct so be seen without opening it	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (1.43)
The peel pack has clear instructions of where and how to open	✗	✗
There are no instructions but this is obvious (Yes/no)	✓	✓
Flaps/tabs can be gripped easily.	★★☆ (1.50)	★★☆ (1.43)
The dressing dispenses onto the correct area when opened	★★☆ (1.86)	☆☆☆ (0.44)
The wound and surounding skin can be seen through the dressing	☆☆☆ (0.00)	★★☆ (1.83)
The dressing conforms to a 'flat' body shape (includes sacrum) when applied	★★☆ (1.33)	★☆☆ (1.21)
The dressing conforms to a round body shape (e.g. heel) when applied	★☆☆ (1.00)	★☆☆ (0.58)
The dressing securely adheres to clean, dry skin when applied as per manufacturer's instructions	★★☆ (1.25)	★☆☆ (1.13)
Dressing application instructions are easy to follow	★★☆ (1.50)	★★☆ (1.33)
The dressing does not stick to itself when being applied	★★☆ (1.96)	★★☆ (1.54)
The dressing stays in place witout edges lifting until planned removal	★☆☆ (0.75)	★☆☆ (0.96)
The dressing does not cause discomfort whilst in place	★★☆ (1.83)	★★☆ (1.58)
The dressing causes minimal pain when removed as per manufacturer's instructions	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (1.75)
There is no skin damage or reaction on dressing removal	★★☆ (1.33)	★★☆ (1.92)
Pharmacy or other identifying labels applied by HCPs can easily be removed	★★☆ (2.00)	★☆☆ (1.00)
Box can be recycled (stated on box)	✓	✓
Peel pack can be recycled (stated on peel pack)	✓	✓
BS EN 13726-1:2002. Fluid handling in g/cm2- 72 hour testing of a. MVTR b. Absorption c. Total fluid handling capacity	a. = 1.60 b. = 5.79 c. = 7.39	a. = 0.26 b. = 0.55 c. = 0.81
BS EN 13726-4:2003. Conformability Extensibility in Ncm-1 length (a.) width (b.) For compression set length in cm (c.) and width (d.) lower = more conformable	a. = 3.5 b. = 3.3 c. = 0.6 d. = 0.6	a. = 0.9 b. = 0.9 c. = 1.4 d. = 1.8
SMTL TM-175. Adhesion in N/cm Higher number = more force required to remove	4.04	1.68
Significant additional observations during evaluation	Lost integrity, base layer "leaked" whilst in place. Difficult residue on removal	Lost integrity. Difficult residue on removal

	COLOPLAST LTD		
TYPE AS LISTED IN CATALOGUE	**Standard**	**Border**	**Transparent**
BRAND	**Comfeel Plus**	**Comfeel Plus Pressure Relief**	**Comfeel Plus Transparent**
HYDROCOLLOID			
SIZES AVAILABLE (DIMENSIONS IN CM)	**4x6 - 6x8 (shaped) - 9x11 (shaped) - 10x10 - 15x15 - 17x17 (sacral) - 20x20**	**7 (plus border) - 10 (plus border) - 15 (plus border)**	**5x7 - 5x15 - 5x25 - 9x14 - 9x25 - 10x10 - 15x15 - 15x20 - 20x20**
BACKING MATERIAL	**Film**	**Removable foam rings**	**Film**

CLINICAL CRITERIA	**Score**	**Score**	**Score**
Storage instructions	✓	✓	✓
BOX. Do not use if peel pack damaged or already open	✗	✗	✗
Brand, hydrocolloid, size and number contained on side of box	✗	✗	✗
Full size image of contents on box	✓	✓	✓
Size of hydrocolloid part on box (bordered)	N/A	✓	N/A
"Hydrocolloid" on individual product wrapper	✓	✓	✓
Size of dressing on individual product wrapper	✓	✓	✓
Size of hydrocolloid part on wrapper (bordered only)	N/A	✓	N/A
Application instructions on individual wrapper	✓	✓	✓
Leaflet contains: Name of product; Type of product ("hydrocolloid"); Indications for use, contra-indications & precautions; Application and removal instructions; Recommended maximum wear time in days; Details of any potential allergens; Specific ingredients/composition of the product; Details of any animal-derived content; Explanation of symbols	✓	✓	✓
Application and removal instructions	✓	✓	✓
Recommended maximum wear time in days	7	7	7
Details of any potential allergens	✗	✗	✗
Specific indredients/composition of the product	✗	✗	✗
Details of any animal-derived content	N/A	N/A	N/A
Explanation of symbols	✓	✓	✓
The box has perforations, a cut away or other feature to assist with opening;	✓	✓	✓
The box opens easily and can be securely closed again:	★★☆ (1.88)	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (1.75)
At least one side of the peel pack is transparent allowing the contenct so be seen without opening it	★★☆ (2.00)	★½☆ (1.71)	★★☆ (2.00)
The peel pack has clear instructions of where and how to open	✗	✗	✗
There are no instructions but this is obvious (Yes/no)	✓	✓	✓
Flaps/tabs can be gripped easily.	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (1.88)	★★☆ (2.00)
The dressing dispenses onto the correct area when opened	★★☆ (1.84)	★½☆ (1.38)	★★☆ (1.86)
The wound and surounding skin can be seen through the dressing	★½☆ (1.32)	☆☆☆ (0.57)	★★☆ (1.90)
The dressing conforms to a 'flat' body shape (includes sacrum) when applied	★★☆ (1.83)	★½☆ (1.29)	★★☆ (1.78)
The dressing conforms to a round body shape (e.g. heel) when applied	★½☆ (1.70)	★½☆ (1.30)	★½☆ (1.48)
The dressing securely adheres to clean, dry skin when applied as per manufacturer's instructions	★★☆ (1.93)	★½☆ (1.46)	★★☆ (1.85)
Dressing application instructions are easy to follow	★★☆ (1.79)	★★☆ (1.79)	★★☆ (1.81)
The dressing does not stick to itself when being applied	★★☆ (1.70)	★★☆ (1.92)	★½☆ (1.58)
The dressing stays in place witout edges lifting until planned removal	★☆☆ (1.16)	☆☆☆ (0.88)	★½☆ (1.39)
The dressing does not cause discomfort whilst in place	★★☆ (1.87)	☆☆☆ (0.92)	★½☆ (1.59)
The dressing causes minimal pain when removed as per manufacturer's instructions	★★½ (2.37)	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (1.89)
There is no skin damage or reaction on dressing removal	★★☆ (2.23)	★½☆ (1.50)	★★☆ (1.91)
Pharmacy or other identifying labels applied by HCPs can easily be removed	★½☆ (1.50)	★½☆ (1.50)	★½☆ (1.50)
Box can be recycled (stated on box)	✓	✓	✓
Peel pack can be recycled (stated on peel pack)	✗	✗	✗
BS EN 13726-1:2002. Fluid handling in g/cm2- 72 hour testing of **a. MVTR** **b. Absorption** **c. Total fluid handling capacity**	a. = 1.73 b. = 4.50 c. = 6.23	a. = 0.49 b. = 4.39 c. = 4.87	a. = 6.25 b. = 1.74 c. = 7.99
BS EN 13726-4:2003. Conformability **Extensibility in Ncm-1 length (a.) width (b.)** **For compression set length in cm (c.) and width (d.)** **lower = more conformable**	a. = 2.7 b. = 3.2 c. = 0.6 d. = 0.6	a. = 28.4 b. = 13.0 c. = 2.90 d. = 1.70	a. = 1.2 b. = 1.3 c. = 1.2 d. = 1.2
SMTL TM-175. Adhesion in N/cm **Higher number = more force required to remove**	4.27	6.41	2.20
Significant additional observations during evaluation			

	CONVATEC LTD			
TYPE AS LISTED IN CATALOGUE	**Standard**	**Standard**	**Border**	**Thin**
BRAND	**Granuflex Convatec**	**Duoderm Signal**	**Granuflex Border**	**Duoderm Extra Thin**
HYDROCOLLOID				
SIZES AVAILABLE (DIMENSIONS IN CM)	**10x10 - 15x15 - 15x20 - 20x20 - 20x30**	**10x10 - 14x14 - 20x20 - 11x19 (oval) - 18.5x19.5 (heel) - 22.5x20 (sacral)**	**6x6 - 10x10 - 10x13 - 15x15 - 15x18**	**4.4x3.8 - 5x10 - 5x20 - 7.5x7.5 - 10x10 - 15x15 -9x15 - 9x25 - 9x35**
BACKING MATERIAL	**Film-Foam Laminate**	**Film**	**Film-Foam Laminate**	**Film**

CLINICAL CRITERIA	**Score**	**Score**	**Score**	**Score**
Storage instructions	✓	✓	✓	✓
BOX. Do not use if peel pack damaged or already open	✗	✗	✗	✗
Brand, hydrocolloid, size and number contained on side of box	✗	✗	✗	✗
Full size image of contents on box	✗	✗	✗	✗
Size of hydrocolloid part on box (bordered)	N/A	N/A	✓	N/A
"Hydrocolloid" on individual product wrapper	✓	✗	✓	✓
Size of dressing on individual product wrapper	✓	✓	✓	✓
Size of hydrocolloid part on wrapper (bordered only)	N/A	N/A	✓	N/A
Application instructions on individual wrapper	✓	✗	✓	✗
Leaflet contains: Name of product; Type of product ("hydrocolloid"); Indications for use, contra-indications & precautions; Application and removal instructions; Recommended maximum wear time in days; Details of any potential allergens; Specific ingredients/ composition of the product; Details of any animal-derived content; Explanation of symbols	✓	✓	✓	✓
Application and removal instructions	✓	✓	✓	✓
Recommended maximum wear time in days	7	7	7	7
Details of any potential allergens	✗	✗	✗	✗
Specific indredients/composition of the product	✗	✗	✗	✗
Details of any animal-derived content	✗	✗	✗	✗
Explanation of symbols	✓	✓	✓	✓
The box has perforations, a cut away or other feature to assist with opening;	✗	✗	✗	✗
The box opens easily and can be securely closed again:	★★☆ (1.88)	★★☆ (1.88)	★★☆ (1.88)	★★☆ (1.88)
At least one side of the peel pack is transparent allowing the contenct so be seen without opening it	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)
The peel pack has clear instructions of where and how to open	✓	✗	✓	✓
There are no instructions but this is obvious (Yes/no)	N/A	✓	N/A	N/A
Flaps/tabs can be gripped easily.	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (1.88)
The dressing dispenses onto the correct area when opened	★½☆ (1.65)	★★☆ (1.88)	★★☆ (1.94)	★★☆ (1.82)
The wound and surounding skin can be seen through the dressing	☆☆☆ (0.28)	★☆☆ (1.04)	☆☆☆ (0.29)	★☆☆ (1.16))
The dressing conforms to a 'flat' body shape (includes sacrum) when applied	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)
The dressing conforms to a round body shape (e.g. heel) when applied	★★☆ (1.94)	★★☆ (1.88)	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (1.75)
The dressing securely adheres to clean, dry skin when applied as per manufacturer's instructions	★★☆ (1.94)	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)
Dressing application instructions are easy to follow	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)
The dressing does not stick to itself when being applied	★★☆ (1.80)	★★☆ (1.92)	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (1.85)
The dressing stays in place witout edges lifting until planned removal	★☆☆ (1.10)	★½☆ (1.63)	★☆☆ (1.08)	★½☆ (1.56)
The dressing does not cause discomfort whilst in place	★★☆ (1.84)	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)
The dressing causes minimal pain when removed as per manufacturer's instructions	★★☆ (1.84)	★★☆ (2.17)	★★☆ (1.84)	★★☆ (2.12)
There is no skin damage or reaction on dressing removal	★½☆ (1.71)	★★½ (2.25)	★½☆ (1.71)	★★☆ (1.78)
Pharmacy or other identifying labels applied by HCPs can easily be removed	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)
Box can be recycled (stated on box)	✗	✗	✗	✗
Peel pack can be recycled (stated on peel pack)	✗	✗	✗	✗
BS EN 13726-1:2002. Fluid handling in g/cm2- 72 hour testing of **a. MVTR** **b. Absorption** **c. Total fluid handling capacity**	a. = 1.09 b. = 2.53 c. = 3.62	a. = 0.59 b. = 2.86 c. = 3.45	a. = 3.15 b. = 3.35 c. = 6.50	a. = 0.95 b. = 1.52 c. = 2.47
BS EN 13726-4:2003. Conformability **Extensibility in Ncm-1 length (a.) width (b.)** **For compression set length in cm (c.) and width (d.)** **lower = more conformable**	a. = 2.0 b. = 2.3 c. = 1.7 d. = 1.5	a. = 2.9 b. = 3.1 c. = 3.7 d.= 2.8	a. = 1.9 b. = 2.2 c. = 1.9 d. = 1.9	a. = 1.1 b. = 1.2 c. = 2.1 d. = 2.3
SMTL TM-175. Adhesion in N/cm **Higher number = more force required to remove**	5.36	4.50	3.80	3.04
Significant additional observations during evaluation	Foam back absorbs water slightly when showering		Foam back absorbs water slightly when showering	

	COVALON TECHNOLOGIES (EUROPE) LTD		
TYPE AS LISTED IN CATALOGUE	**Standard**	**Border**	**Thin**
BRAND	**Covawound**	**Covawound Border**	**Covawound Thin**
HYDROCOLLOID			
SIZES AVAILABLE (DIMENSIONS IN CM)	**10x10 - 15x15 - 20x20**	**5x5 - 10x10 - 10x12 (oval)- 15x15**	**5x10 - 5x20 - 10x10 - 10x15 - 10x25 - 15x15 - 15x20**
BACKING MATERIAL	**Film**	**Film**	**Film**

CLINICAL CRITERIA	**Score**	**Score**	**Score**
Storage instructions	✓	✓	✓
BOX. Do not use if peel pack damaged or already open	✓	✓	✓
Brand, hydrocolloid, size and number contained on side of box	✗	✗	✗
Full size image of contents on box	✗	✗	✗
Size of hydrocolloid part on box (bordered)	N/A	✗	N/A
"Hydrocolloid" on individual product wrapper	✓	✓	✓
Size of dressing on individual product wrapper	✓	✓	✓
Size of hydrocolloid part on wrapper (bordered only)	N/A	✗	N/A
Application instructions on individual wrapper	✗	✗	✗
Leaflet contains: Name of product; Type of product ("hydrocolloid"); Indications for use, contra-indications & precautions; Application and removal instructions; Recommended maximum wear time in days; Details of any potential allergens; Specific ingredients/composition of the product; Details of any animal-derived content; Explanation of symbols	✓	✓	✓
Application and removal instructions	✗	✗	✗
Recommended maximum wear time in days	7	7	7
Details of any potential allergens	✗	✗	✗
Specific indredients/composition of the product	✗	✗	✗
Details of any animal-derived content	N/A	N/A	N/A
Explanation of symbols	✗	✗	✗
The box has perforations, a cut away or other feature to assist with opening;	✗	✗	✗
The box opens easily and can be securely closed again:	★★☆ (1.86)	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)
At least one side of the peel pack is transparent allowing the contenct so be seen without opening it	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)
The peel pack has clear instructions of where and how to open	✗	✗	✗
There are no instructions but this is obvious (Yes/no)	✓	✓	✓
Flaps/tabs can be gripped easily.	★★☆ (1.86)	★★☆ (1.83)	★★☆ (1.86)
The dressing dispenses onto the correct area when opened	★★☆ (1.93)	★★☆ (1.92)	★★☆ (1.93)
The wound and surounding skin can be seen through the dressing	★★☆ (1.50)	★★☆ (1.92)	★★☆ (1.50)
The dressing conforms to a 'flat' body shape (includes sacrum) when applied	★★☆ (1.96)	★★☆ (1.95)	★★☆ (1.90)
The dressing conforms to a round body shape (e.g. heel) when applied	★★☆ (1.69)	★★☆ (1.38)	★★☆ (1.63)
The dressing securely adheres to clean, dry skin when applied as per manufacturer's instructions	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)
Dressing application instructions are easy to follow	★★☆ (1.92)	★★☆ (1.96)	★★☆ (2.00)
The dressing does not stick to itself when being applied	★★☆ (1.96)	★★☆ (1.88)	★★☆ (1.75)
The dressing stays in place witout edges lifting until planned removal	★★☆ (1.42)	☆☆☆ (0.83)	★★☆ (1.50)
The dressing does not cause discomfort whilst in place	★★☆ (1.67)	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (1.50)
The dressing causes minimal pain when removed as per manufacturer's instructions	★★☆ (1.67)	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)
There is no skin damage or reaction on dressing removal	★★☆ (1.92)	★★★ (2.25)	★★★ (2.25)
Pharmacy or other identifying labels applied by HCPs can easily be removed	★★☆ (1.50)	★★☆ (1.50)	★★☆ (1.50)
Box can be recycled (stated on box)	✗	✗	✗
Peel pack can be recycled (stated on peel pack)	✗	✗	✗
BS EN 13726-1:2002. Fluid handling in g/cm2- 72 hour testing of **a. MVTR** **b. Absorption** **c. Total fluid handling capacity**	a. = 2.41 b. = 1.65 c. = 4.06	a. = 2.05 b. = 3.49 c. = 5.55	a. = 2.01 b. = 1.31 c. = 3.32
BS EN 13726-4:2003. Conformability **Extensibility in Ncm-1 length (a.) width (b.)** **For compression set length in cm (c.) and width (d.)** **lower = more conformable**	a. = 1.6 b. = 2.0 c. = 0.6 d. = 1.6	a. = 1.4 b. = 1.6 c. = 1.2 d. = 1.7	a. = 1.2 b. = 1.5 c. = 1.2 d. = 1.6
SMTL TM-175. Adhesion in N/cm **Higher number = more force required to remove**	5.97	5.04	7.61
Significant additional observations during evaluation			

	IMS EURO LTD
TYPE AS LISTED IN CATALOGUE	Standard
BRAND	Renocare
HYDROCOLLOID	
SIZES AVAILABLE (DIMENSIONS IN CM)	10x10 - 15x15 - 20x20
BACKING MATERIAL	Film

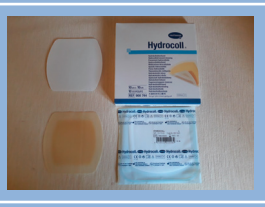
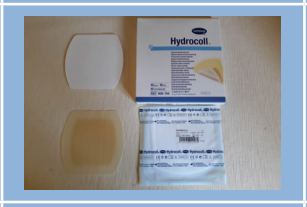
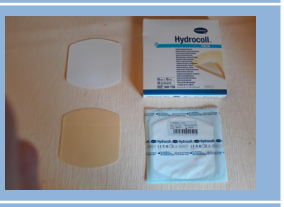
CLINICAL CRITERIA	Score
Storage instructions	✓
BOX. Do not use if peel pack damaged or already open	✗
Brand, hydrocolloid, size and number contained on side of box	✓
Full size image of contents on box	✗
Size of hydrocolloid part on box (bordered)	N/A
"Hydrocolloid" on individual product wrapper	✓
Size of dressing on individual product wrapper	✓
Size of hydrocolloid part on wrapper (bordered only)	N/A
Application instructions on individual wrapper	✗
Leaflet contains: Name of product; Type of product (“hydrocolloid”); Indications for use, contra-indications & precautions; Application and removal instructions; Recommended maximum wear time in days; Details of any potential allergens; Specific ingredients/composition of the product; Details of any animal-derived content; Explanation of symbols	✓
Application and removal instructions	✓
Recommended maximum wear time in days	7
Details of any potential allergens	✗
Specific indredients/composition of the product	✗
Details of any animal-derived content	N/A
Explanation of symbols	✗
The box has perforations, a cut away or other feature to assist with opening;	✗
The box opens easily and can be securely closed again:	★★½☆ (1.29)
At least one side of the peel pack is transparent allowing the contenct so be seen without opening it	★★☆ (1.86)
The peel pack has clear instructions of where and how to open	✓
There are no instructions but this is obvious (Yes/no)	N/A
Flaps/tabs can be gripped easily.	★★☆ (2.00)
The dressing dispenses onto the correct area when opened	★★☆ (1.78)
The wound and surounding skin can be seen through the dressing	★★½☆ (1.67)
The dressing conforms to a 'flat' body shape (includes sacrum) when applied	★★½☆ (1.63)
The dressing conforms to a round body shape (e.g. heel) when applied	★★½☆ (1.25)
The dressing securely adheres to clean, dry skin when applied as per manufacturer's instructions	★★☆ (2.00)
Dressing application instructions are easy to follow	★★☆ (1.96)
The dressing does not stick to itself when being applied	★★☆ (1.79)
The dressing stays in place witout edges lifting until planned removal	★☆☆ (1.24)
The dressing does not cause discomfort whilst in place	★★☆ (2.00)
The dressing causes minimal pain when removed as per manufacturer's instructions	★★☆ (1.86)
There is no skin damage or reaction on dressing removal	★★☆ (2.03)
Pharmacy or other identifying labels applied by HCPs can easily be removed	★★☆ (2.00)
Box can be recycled (stated on box)	✗
Peel pack can be recycled (stated on peel pack)	✗
BS EN 13726-1:2002. Fluid handling in g/cm2- 72 hour testing of a. MVTR b. Absorption c. Total fluid handling capacity	a. = 0.98 b. = 4.78 c. = 5.75
BS EN 13726-4:2003. Conformability Extensibility in Ncm-1 length (a.) width (b.) For compression set length in cm (c.) and width (d.) lower = more conformable	a. = 1.0 b. = 1.3 c. = 0.7 d. = 0.2
SMTL TM-175. Adhesion in N/cm Higher number = more force required to remove	3.89
Significant additional observations during evaluation	

	KCI MEDICAL LTD	
TYPE AS LISTED IN CATALOGUE	**Border**	**Thin**
BRAND	**Nuderm Border**	**Nuderm Thin**
HYDROCOLLOID		
SIZES AVAILABLE (DIMENSIONS IN CM)	**5x5 - 10x10 - 15x15 - 20x20 - 8x12 (joint) - 15x18 (sacral)**	**10x10**
BACKING MATERIAL	**Film**	**Film**

CLINICAL CRITERIA	**Score**	**Score**
Storage instructions	✓	✓
BOX. Do not use if peel pack damaged or already open	✓	✓
Brand, hydrocolloid, size and number contained on side of box	✗	✗
Full size image of contents on box	✗	✗
Size of hydrocolloid part on box (bordered)	✗	N/A
"Hydrocolloid" on individual product wrapper	✓	✓
Size of dressing on individual product wrapper	✓	✓
Size of hydrocolloid part on wrapper (bordered only)	✗	N/A
Application instructions on individual wrapper	✗	✗
Leaflet contains: Name of product; Type of product ("hydrocolloid"); Indications for use, contra-indications & precautions; Application and removal instructions; Recommended maximum wear time in days; Details of any potential allergens; Specific ingredients/composition of the product; Details of any animal-derived content; Explanation of symbols	✓	✓
Application and removal instructions	✓	✓
Recommended maximum wear time in days	7	7
Details of any potential allergens	✗	✗
Specific indredients/composition of the product	✗	✗
Details of any animal-derived content	N/A	N/A
Explanation of symbols	✗	✗
The box has perforations, a cut away or other feature to assist with opening;	✓	✓
The box opens easily and can be securely closed again:	★★½☆☆ (1.38)	★★½☆☆ (1.25)
At least one side of the peel pack is transparent allowing the contenct so be seen without opening it	★★☆☆☆ (2.00)	★★☆☆☆ (2.00)
The peel pack has clear instructions of where and how to open	✗	✗
There are no instructions but this is obvious (Yes/no)	✗	✗
Flaps/tabs can be gripped easily.	★½☆☆☆ (1.50)	★½☆☆☆ (1.38)
The dressing dispenses onto the correct area when opened	★★☆☆☆ (1.88)	★★☆☆☆ (1.82)
The wound and surounding skin can be seen through the dressing	☆☆☆☆☆ (0.63)	★½☆☆☆ (1.33)
The dressing conforms to a 'flat' body shape (includes sacrum) when applied	★½☆☆☆ (1.58)	★★☆☆☆ (1.92)
The dressing conforms to a round body shape (e.g. heel) when applied	★½☆☆☆ (1.43)	★★☆☆☆ (1.88)
The dressing securely adheres to clean, dry skin when applied as per manufacturer's instructions	★½☆☆☆ (1.56)	★½☆☆☆ (1.42)
Dressing application instructions are easy to follow	★★☆☆☆ (1.95)	★★☆☆☆ (2.00)
The dressing does not stick to itself when being applied	★★☆☆☆ (1.88)	★★☆☆☆ (1.96)
The dressing stays in place witout edges lifting until planned removal	★☆☆☆☆ (1.17)	☆☆☆☆☆ (0.88)
The dressing does not cause discomfort whilst in place	★½☆☆☆ (1.67)	★★☆☆☆ (1.83)
The dressing causes minimal pain when removed as per manufacturer's instructions	★★☆☆☆ (2.00)	★★½☆☆ (2.25)
There is no skin damage or reaction on dressing removal	★½☆☆☆ (1.67)	★★½☆☆ (2.25)
Pharmacy or other identifying labels applied by HCPs can easily be removed	★★☆☆☆ (2.00)	★★☆☆☆ (2.00)
Box can be recycled (stated on box)	✗	✗
Peel pack can be recycled (stated on peel pack)	✗	✗
BS EN 13726-1:2002. Fluid handling in g/cm2- 72 hour testing of **a. MVTR** **b. Absorption** **c. Total fluid handling capacity**	a. = 0.87 b. = 4.73 c. = 5.61	a. = 0.92 b. = 2.68 c. = 3.60
BS EN 13726-4:2003. Conformability **Extensibility in Ncm-1 length (a.) width (b.)** **For compression set length in cm (c.) and width (d.)** **lower = more conformable**	a. = 1.5 b. = 1.6 c. = 1.2 d. = 1.0	a. = 1.0 b. = 1.1 c. = 1.4 d. = 1.6
SMTL TM-175. Adhesion in N/cm **Higher number = more force required to remove**	3.82	5.68
Significant additional observations during evaluation		

	MEDICARE COLGATE LTD (STERIFEED)
TYPE AS LISTED IN CATALOGUE	Thin
BRAND	Farmactive Hydro
HYDROCOLLOID	
SIZES AVAILABLE (DIMENSIONS IN CM)	10x10 - 15x15
BACKING MATERIAL	Film

CLINICAL CRITERIA	Score
Storage instructions	✓
BOX. Do not use if peel pack damaged or already open	✗
Brand, hydrocolloid, size and number contained on side of box	✗
Full size image of contents on box	✗
Size of hydrocolloid part on box (bordered)	N/A
"Hydrocolloid" on individual product wrapper	✓
Size of dressing on individual product wrapper	✓
Size of hydrocolloid part on wrapper (bordered only)	N/A
Application instructions on individual wrapper	✗
Leaflet contains: Name of product; Type of product ("hydrocolloid"); Indications for use, contra-indications & precautions; Application and removal instructions; Recommended maximum wear time in days; Details of any potential allergens; Specific ingredients/composition of the product; Details of any animal-derived content; Explanation of symbols	✓
Application and removal instructions	✓
Recommended maximum wear time in days	5
Details of any potential allergens	✗
Specific indredients/composition of the product	✗
Details of any animal-derived content	N/A
Explanation of symbols	✓
The box has perforations, a cut away or other feature to assist with opening;	✓
The box opens easily and can be securely closed again:	★★☆ (1.86)
At least one side of the peel pack is transparent allowing the contenct so be seen without opening it	★★☆ (1.86)
The peel pack has clear instructions of where and how to open	✓
There are no instructions but this is obvious (Yes/no)	N/A
Flaps/tabs can be gripped easily.	★½☆ (1.57)
The dressing dispenses onto the correct area when opened	★½☆ (1.38)
The wound and surounding skin can be seen through the dressing	★½☆ (1.29)
The dressing conforms to a 'flat' body shape (includes sacrum) when applied	★★☆ (1.96)
The dressing conforms to a round body shape (e.g. heel) when applied	★½☆ (1.50)
The dressing securely adheres to clean, dry skin when applied as per manufacturer's instructions	★★☆ (2.00)
Dressing application instructions are easy to follow	★★☆ (2.00)
The dressing does not stick to itself when being applied	★★☆ (2.00)
The dressing stays in place witout edges lifting until planned removal	★☆☆ (1.13)
The dressing does not cause discomfort whilst in place	★★☆ (2.00)
The dressing causes minimal pain when removed as per manufacturer's instructions	★½☆ (1.67)
There is no skin damage or reaction on dressing removal	★½☆ (1.33)
Pharmacy or other identifying labels applied by HCPs can easily be removed	★★☆ (2.00)
Box can be recycled (stated on box)	✓
Peel pack can be recycled (stated on peel pack)	✗
BS EN 13726-1:2002. Fluid handling in g/cm2- 72 hour testing of a. MVTR b. Absorption c. Total fluid handling capacity	a. = 2.40 b. = 1.80 c. = 4.20
BS EN 13726-4:2003. Conformability Extensibility in Ncm-1 length (a.) width (b.) For compression set length in cm (c.) and width (d.) lower = more conformable	a. = 1.4 b. = 1.7 c. = 0.6 d. = 1.7
SMTL TM-175. Adhesion in N/cm Higher number = more force required to remove	4.37
Significant additional observations during evaluation	

	PAUL HARTMANN LTD		
TYPE AS LISTED IN CATALOGUE	**Standard**	**Border/Bevelled Edge**	**Thin**
BRAND	**Hydrocoll Basic**	**Hydrocoll Border**	**Hydrocoll Thin**
HYDROCOLLOID			
SIZES AVAILABLE (DIMENSIONS IN CM)	**10x10**	**5x5 - 7.5x7.5 - 10x10 - 15x15 - 8x12 (concave) - 12x18 (sacral)**	**7.5x7.5 - 10x10 - 15x15**
BACKING MATERIAL	**Film**	**Film**	**Film**

CLINICAL CRITERIA	**Score**	**Score**	**Score**
Storage instructions	✓	✓	✓
BOX. Do not use if peel pack damaged or already open	✗	✗	✗
Brand, hydrocolloid, size and number contained on side of box	✗	✗	✗
Full size image of contents on box	N/A	✓ (Graphic Only)	N/A
Size of hydrocolloid part on box (bordered)	✗	✗	N/A
"Hydrocolloid" on individual product wrapper	✓	✓	✓
Size of dressing on individual product wrapper	✓	✓	✓
Size of hydrocolloid part on wrapper (bordered only)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Application instructions on individual wrapper	✗	✗	✗
Leaflet contains: Name of product; Type of product ("hydrocolloid"); Indications for use, contra-indications & precautions; Application and removal instructions; Recommended maximum wear time in days; Details of any potential allergens; Specific ingredients/composition of the product; Details of any animal-derived content; Explanation of symbols	✓	✓	✓
Application and removal instructions	✓	✓	✓
Recommended maximum wear time in days	7	7	7
Details of any potential allergens	✗	✗	✗
Specific indredients/composition of the product	✗	✗	✗
Details of any animal-derived content	Does not contain components of animal origin	Does not contain components of animal origin	Does not contain components of animal origin
Explanation of symbols	✗	✗	✗
The box has perforations, a cut away or other feature to assist with opening;	✓	✓	✓
The box opens easily and can be securely closed again:	★★☆ (1.86)	★★☆ (1.86)	★★☆ (1.86)
At least one side of the peel pack is transparent allowing the contenct so be seen without opening it	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)
The peel pack has clear instructions of where and how to open	✗	✗	✗
There are no instructions but this is obvious (Yes/no)	✗	✗	✗
Flaps/tabs can be gripped easily.	★☆☆ (1.00)	★☆☆ (1.00)	★☆☆ (1.14)
The dressing dispenses onto the correct area when opened	★★☆ (1.75)	★★☆ (1.75)	★½☆ (1.54)
The wound and surounding skin can be seen through the dressing	★★☆ (1.88)	★★☆ (1.88)	★★☆ (2.00)
The dressing conforms to a 'flat' body shape (includes sacrum) when applied	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)
The dressing conforms to a round body shape (e.g. heel) when applied	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (1.88)
The dressing securely adheres to clean, dry skin when applied as per manufacturer's instructions	★★☆ (1.94)	★★☆ (1.94)	★★☆ (2.00)
Dressing application instructions are easy to follow	★★☆ (1.83)	★★☆ (1.83)	★★☆ (1.92)
The dressing does not stick to itself when being applied	★★☆ (1.96)	★★☆ (1.96)	★★☆ (1.81)
The dressing stays in place witout edges lifting until planned removal	★½☆ (1.50)	★½☆ (1.50)	★½☆ (1.50)
The dressing does not cause discomfort whilst in place	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)
The dressing causes minimal pain when removed as per manufacturer's instructions	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.00)	★★☆ (2.11)
There is no skin damage or reaction on dressing removal	★★☆ (2.17)	★★☆ (2.17)	★★½ (2.17)
Pharmacy or other identifying labels applied by HCPs can easily be removed	★½☆ (1.50)	★½☆ (1.50)	★½☆ (1.50)
Box can be recycled (stated on box)	✓	✓	✓
Peel pack can be recycled (stated on peel pack)	✗	✗	✗
BS EN 13726-1:2002. Fluid handling in g/cm2- 72 hour testing of **a. MVTR** **b. Absorption** **c. Total fluid handling capacity**	a. = 1.39 b. = 7.19 c. = 8.58	a. = 1.39 b. = 7.19 c. = 8.58	a. = 1.20 b. = 2.65 c. = 3.85
BS EN 13726-4:2003. Conformability **Extensibility in Ncm-1 length (a.) width (b.)** **For compression set length in cm (c.) and width (d.)** **lower = more conformable**	a. = 1.4 b. = 1.5 c. = 1.2 d. = 1.8	a. = 1.4 b. = 1.5 c. = 1.2 d. = 1.8	a. = 1.2 b. = 1.3 c. = 1.2 d. = 1.2
SMTL TM-175. Adhesion in N/cm **Higher number = more force required to remove**	3.58	3.58	3.88
Significant additional observations during evaluation			

7. Further Considerations and Recommendations

7.1 Future recommendations

7.1.1. Packaging

In our consultations it became clear that different sizes of units of issue (box or pack) are preferred by different environments. For example, a hospital ward may want HCDs issued in boxes of 10 to store on a shelf and use for multiple patients, whilst in community settings those using a prescription route prefer smaller quantities to reduce waste. For this reason, suppliers should consider increasing the range of pack quantities available following consultation with their customers in all health care settings.

7.1.2. Opening

In our consultations, users told us that they prefer some form of opening aid on boxes/packs such as a perforation or cut away. Suppliers who currently don't provide such a feature should consider modifying packaging to include this.

Users also told us that they prefer larger, identified flaps/tabs to make opening individual peel packs easier. Therefore, all such packaging should be designed to ensure this need is met.

7.1.3. Clinical Use

Not all care providers and patients are aware that some wound dressings contain pig derived gelatine and this is sometimes a cultural or belief related contra-indication for their use. Therefore, suppliers of this type of product should include easily accessible and understandable labelling of any animal derived dressing constituents so that patients can give informed consent for their use.

7.1.4. Disposal

Whilst some unit of issue boxes/packs include that they are suitable for recycling, not all suppliers state this. Suppliers should, therefore, ensure that recyclable materials are used and identify this on the packaging.

Individual product peel packs should also be recyclable with this indicated on them. However, CET acknowledges that the requirement that they be waterproof and a bacterial barrier may currently make this impractical.

7.2 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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Reports are accurate at the time of publication, any recommendations or best practice guidance should be checked for updates.

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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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