Frequently Asked Questions
For GuardIVA® Antimicrobial Hemostatic IV Dressings

What is the GuardIVA® Antimicrobial Hemostatic IV Dressing intended for?
The GuardIVA® Antimicrobial Hemostatic IV Dressing is intended for use as a hydrophilic wound dressing to absorb exudate, cover and protect catheter sites. Common applications include IV catheters, other intravenous catheters and percutaneous devices. The GuardIVA® dressing is also indicated for control of surface bleeding from percutaneous catheters and vascular access sites.

What are the benefits of using the GuardIVA® Antimicrobial Hemostatic IV Dressing?
GuardIVA® Antimicrobial Hemostatic IV Dressing is a vascular access site care solution providing CHG, absorbency, and hemostatic properties. GuardIVA® can be used in the 24 hours after placement of any percutaneous device to control surface bleeding and provide antimicrobial protection within the dressing. The GuardIVA® dressing provides hemostasis and antimicrobial protection in the most critical 24 hours after placement and provides up to 7 days of sustained antimicrobial protection within the dressing as demonstrated by bench testing.

What is the GuardIVA® dressing's composition?
GuardIVA® is a hydrophilic polyurethane absorptive sponge dressing impregnated with Chlorhexidine Gluconate (CHG), a well known antiseptic agent with broad spectrum antimicrobial and antifungal activity and a proprietary formulation of oxidized cellulose, a hemostatic agent.

How much CHG do the GuardIVA® dressings contain?
GuardIVA® dressings are formulated to contain between 22 – 24 mg of CHG. CHG is added to the dressing to protect the dressing from bacterial colonization.

Why does the GuardIVA® dressing contain 22-24mg of CHG?
The concentration of CHG in the GuardIVA® dressing demonstrated in vitro efficacy against test organisms known to cause CRBSI. In vitro testing demonstrated sustained antimicrobial efficacy for up to 7 days. A greater than 4 log reduction in microbial count was observed for all test organisms. The GuardIVA® dressing has not been clinically tested for its ability to reduce catheter related blood stream infections. An in vivo animal study showed the GuardIVA® dressing allowed wound healing in a manner more consistent with that of untreated wounds as compared to the Biopatch dressing.

Why is hemostasis important?
IV and catheter sites may ooze and bleed in the first 24 hours upon placement of an IV or catheter. Standard protocol is to use gauze in these first 24 hours to control bleeding and then move to an antimicrobial protective CHG dressing, potentially leaving the catheter site exposed in those 24 hours. With the GuardIVA® dressing’s antimicrobial protection within the dressing, protection can be provided immediately upon placement of the IV or catheter, while also controlling surface bleeding.

What level of bleeding does the GuardIVA® dressing control?
The GuardIVA® dressing is indicated for control of surface bleeding. In vivo animal testing of the GuardIVA® dressing has shown to control bleeding faster and reduce blood loss by 7 fold when compared to standard gauze.
How does the GuardIVa® dressing control bleeding?
The GuardIVa® dressing controls bleeding through its oxidized cellulose compound which physically interacts with blood constituents such as platelets and provides a structural scaffold which facilitates clot formation and helps to control surface bleeding.

Is the GuardIVa® dressing absorbent?
Yes, the GuardIVa® dressing sponge is able to absorb up to 11 times its own weight in fluid, exudate and/or blood.

What microorganisms has the GuardIVa® dressing been shown to be effective against?
In vitro testing of the CHG-based GuardIVa® dressing demonstrated antimicrobial effectiveness within the dressing over seven days against a wide range of microorganisms, including Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), Staphylococcus epidermidis (MRSE), Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Enterococcus faecalis (VRE), Acinetobacter baumanii, Escherichia coli, Klebsiella pneumonia and Candida albicans and has shown a level of antimicrobial effectiveness on all organisms at > 4 log reduction (the FDA standard for antimicrobial efficacy). CHG protects the dressing from bacterial colonization. The GuardIVa® dressing has not been clinically tested for its ability to reduce catheter related blood stream infections.

What sizes does the GuardIVa® dressing come in, and what catheter size are they ideal for?
GuardIVa® IV Dressings are 1 in (2.5 cm) or 3/4in (1.9cm) in diameter and come with a radial slit and 3 different size access holes: 1.5mm, 4mm and 7mm to accommodate different catheter and pin sizes.

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How do GuardIVa® dressings work with preps?
The GuardIVa® dressing is CHG based and can be used with standard IV site treatment protocol which includes CHG and iodine-based preps. When skin preps are not allowed to dry prior to the application of GuardIVa® and a transparent dressing, contact dermatitis (skin redness) can occur.

Are there any warnings for the GuardIVa® dressing’s use?
Do not use the GuardIVa® dressing on patients with a known sensitivity to chlorhexidine gluconate. The use of chlorhexidine gluconate containing products has been reported to cause irritation, sensitization, and generalized allergic reactions. If any such reactions occur, discontinue use of the dressing immediately, and if severe, contact a physician. GuardIVa® is for external use only. Do not allow this product to contact ears, eyes, mouth or mucous membranes. Do not use if seal is broken and/or contents are wet. Please consult package insert for more detailed safety information and instructions.

How do I apply the GuardIVa® dressing on a patient?
1. Prepare the skin surrounding the percutaneous device according to hospital protocol.
2. Remove the GuardIVa® dressing from the sterile package using aseptic technique.
3. Place the GuardIVa® dressing around the catheter with the printed side facing up.
4. Position the GuardIVa® dressing around the catheter/pin site, so the catheter rests on the slit portion of the GuardIVa® dressing. The slit edges should come in contact with one another to ensure best efficacy.

**How do I secure the GuardIVa® dressing on the catheter site?**
Secure the catheter and GuardIVa® dressing to the skin with a transparent dressing. For securement around orthopedic pins, tape can be used. Assure complete contact between the skin and GuardIVa®.

**What is the wear time of the GuardIVa® dressing /How long can it be left on a wound?**
Change the dressing as necessary, according to facility protocol; dressing can be left in place for up to 7 days. More frequent changes may be needed with highly exuding wounds.

**How should the dressing be removed?**
Follow dressing change and removal technique according to your institution’s protocol. To remove GuardIVa, hold the catheter and pick up the corner of the transparent dressing. In a slow and low motion pull the dressing away from the catheter. The GuardIVa® dressing will lift off with the transparent dressing.

**Are there any contraindications for its use?**
There are no known contraindications for use of the GuardIVa® dressing. See product insert for full instructions for use, precautions and warnings.

**Can the dressing be used on pediatrics?**
The GuardIVa® dressing is not contraindicated for the use on pediatric populations. Do not use the GuardIVa dressing on patients with known sensitivity to chlorhexidine gluconate. The use of chlorhexidine gluconate containing products has been reported to cause irritation, sensitization, and generalized allergic reactions. If any such reactions occurs, discontinue use of the dressing immediately, and if severe, contact a physician.