

## Bristol Heart Institute Sternal Incision Site Management Pathway

### Standard Cardiac Wound Care



Remove film dressing on Day 3

Clean wound using ANTT

Redress using a film dressing.

Ensure the sternotomy dressing is separate from pacing wire dressings

Leave sternotomy film in place until Day 7 or until day of discharge (if earlier)

If wet, continue film until healing achieved

### PICO Incision Management for High Risk BHIS Patients



PICO to remain in place for 5 days post surgery.

Advice on the pump can be sought in your PICO resource folder.

Remove PICO dressing on day 5 and apply standard film dressing for a further 2 days

Remove film dressing on Day 7 (as per standard cardiac wound care)

### Wound leaking serous or haemoserous fluid and requiring changing once a day



Clean wound using ANTT

Apply Foam dressing (such as Urgotul Absorb Border)

Leave foam in place until full. If still requiring daily dressing changes consider a superabsorbant dressing such as Kerramax or Eclypse

Consider Cardiac Wound Care CNS referral as per "when to refer to Cardiac Wound Care CNS"

### Refer to Cardiac Wound Care CNS....



If the wound is being dressed more than once daily and has **ONE** or more of below:

- Haemopurulent / purulent exudate leaking from wound
- Evidence of dehiscence
- Peri-wound erythema
- Sternum clicking

**Refer ASAP to Cardiac Wound Care CNS (Ext 26606 / Bleep 3969)**

[Sarah.battaglia@uhbristol.nhs.uk](mailto:Sarah.battaglia@uhbristol.nhs.uk)  
[Molly.peters@uhbristol.nhs.uk](mailto:Molly.peters@uhbristol.nhs.uk)

**If on weekend or out of hours contact on-call SpR to review the wound**

**\*\*These wounds are likely to require V.A.C. NPWT and prompt intervention is essential\*\***