



Supporting Standards that Make Sense

Moisture Management Performance Criteria

Effective products/systems **dealing with moisture** (whether resulting from **wound exudate**, residual **urine from incontinence** or **moisture from perspiration** and other sources) need to meet exacting performance criteria. The objectives are always to maintain or restore the ideal microclimate for skin health and quality of life for the individuals and caregivers involved. The following are fundamental principles and criteria that should be considered.

- 1.) **Sufficient absorbent capacity to provide 6-8 hours of protection** to allow uninterrupted activity (e.g. uninterrupted sleep, normal socialization, activities, etc.).
- 2.) **Protection from** the risks to skin integrity caused by **shear, friction, heat, wetness and high pH**.
- 3.) **Protection from the risk of falls** associated with incontinence or wound exudate that leaves the feeling of wetness/coldness on the skin.
- 4.) Product design and absorbent capacity that **eliminates waste and costs incurred by product leakage** and results in wet bedding or clothing.
- 5.) Product ease of use and effectiveness that **minimizes burden and frustration for caregivers**, leading to burnout.
- 6.) High product performance that **allows caregivers to focus on individual-centered therapies and life-enhancement strategies** for their residents.

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