**ACTICOAT Flex handling guide**

### What’s ACTICOAT Flex?

**What is ACTICOAT Flex?**

ACTICOAT Flex is a highly conformable dressing made of 100% polyester substrate with SILVOST® silver coated onto both sides. The dressing can be stretched one way and is designed to move with the patient to facilitate a comfortable duration of wear. The silver is rapidly released and replenished to achieve a sustainable bactericidal barrier that may help to protect the wound from infection. ACTICOAT Flex may be used on infected wounds in line with relevant facility protocols.

**ACTICOAT Flex 3 and 7 are coated with the unique SILVOST® technology which incorporates Nanocrystalline silver.** The structure of the silver coating provides a larger surface area to volume ratio; the larger this ratio the more dissolution of silver can take place so that effective bactericidal levels of Ag+ ions can be achieved.

The silver coating also release small clusters of Ag+ ions that remain active for prolonged periods of time. There are also two types:

- **ACTICOAT Flex 3**: Change every 3 days
- **ACTICOAT Flex 7**: Seven day application

Silver coated on both sides

Open weave structure polyester

### Moistening techniques

ACTICOAT Flex needs to be moistened with sterile water or drinking water. **DO NOT use saline.**

- ACTICOAT Flex is more likely to dry-out as exudate levels in the wound decrease. Vigilance is required following use of the product in superficial and partial thickness burns and over graft sites.

- **ACTICOAT Flex can be maintained moist using a syringe via catheters/feeding tubes without the need to remove the dressing for up to 3 days.**

**How to care for ACTICOAT Flex**

- ACTICOAT Flex must remain moist for the silver to be continuously released. The dressing should be checked every 6-8 hours and moistened, if required, with sterile or drinking water in line with local protocols.
- **ACTICOAT Flex may be managed at home as long as the dressing is kept moist, this can be achieved by moistening/irrigation 2-3 times a day.**
- **The dressing needs to be moist rather than wet.**

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### Feeding tubes

Cut irrigation tube (plastic feeding catheter) to a length that will enable access on completion of dressing and secure irrigation tube to ACTICOAT Flex with adhesive tape or fabric zinc oxide tape. The number of irrigation tubes is dependent upon the size of area to be covered. For example, for a small wound one tube is adequate. For a large surface area one tube is required for an area of 20cm x 20cm. Spare tubes may be included in the event that one is removed:

- Each tube is irrigated with 3-5mls of water in order to moisten 2-3 times a day.
- **If it is dripping, it is too wet which could cause maceration around the wound edges.**

### Difficult to dress area and secondary dressing

**Covering with a moist wound healing dressing such as OPSITE™ or ALLEVYN**

Choice of secondary dressing: If you select a semi-occlusive or occlusive secondary dressing to maintain a moist wound healing environment you may not need to moisten ACTICOAT Flex during wear.

**ACTICOAT Flex in situ (NPWT to lower wound) courtesy of Sue Murray and Ann Pardoe**

**ALLEVYN Gentle Border used as secondary dressing courtesy of Sue Murray and Ann Pardoe**

### Application with a Hydrogel

**ACTICOAT Flex can be maintained moist using INTRASITE® Gel or with INTRASITE Gel conformable**

- **ACTICOAT Flex can be used with INTRASITE Gel or INTRASITE Gel Conformable, covered with dressings such as EXU-DRY®, or Gauze.**
- **INTRASITE Conformable should be placed over ACTICOAT Flex, then an absorbing dressing on top.**
- **INTRASITE Gel should be applied directly to the wound and/or to the dressing.**

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