Limb reconstruction pin site care
Russian technique
Orthofix frame

Stock required (Figure 1)
- Dressing pack
- Nu-Gauze sponges (1 pkt per group of pinsites)
  OR Allevyn if required.
- Alcohol swabs (a few more than the number of pins).
- Clean scissors (2 if cutting off old bandages).
- Dish to soak scissors in.
- Sterile gloves.
- Non-sterile gloves.
- Alcoholic chlorhexidine (0.5% in 70% alcohol).
- 5cm Handyband bandages.

Procedure
- Soak scissors in chlorhexidine fluid to cleanse.
- Wash hands.
- Open all sterile stock to be used (including alcohol swabs from packet).
- Moisten Nu-Gauze with chlorhexidine.
- If using Allevyn or foam product, do not soak dressing in any solution.
- Discard used forceps.
- Remove old dressings using unsterile gloves (and one pair of scissors if needed).
- Remove old Nu-Gauze or Allevyn (Figure 2).

- Wash hands and apply sterile gloves.
- Wring out Nu-Gauze sponges until damp.
- Cut Nu-Gauze or Allevyn into keyhole dressing as shown (Figure 3).

- Clean each pin site with a separate alcohol swab. No attempt is made to remove scabs/crusts from skin. These will fall off when ready.
- Dress each pin site with the Nu-Gauze key hole dressing OR Allevyn dressing (Figure 4).
• If using Allevyn, the edges of the dressing need to be taped down firmly to the skin to hold in position (Figure 5).

• If using Nu-Gauze, fold edges in ‘on themselves’ to form a neat pad (Figure 6).

• Bandage pins in groups of 2 or more as shown (figure 7).
The purpose of the bandaging is to maintain a firm tension against the skin to prevent skin hypertrophy and movement of skin around pinsites (especially a problem if pin site is in a large muscle mass).

• Start to bandage the dressing by enveloping as much of the Nu-Gauze as possible. Wrap around a couple of times, then bandage through the centre of the pins in a figure of 8 fashion if possible.
• Bandage to the edge of the fixator.
• Tuck the edges of the bandages into the dressing bulk, or use tape to secure.
• NOTE: if the pinsite is gaping, moist or inflamed, Allevyn (or another foam dressing product) can be used. Cut into a keyhole dressing like the Nu-Gauze sponge, but do not soak in the Chlorhexidine.
• Secure to skin by taping down, and bandage as per usual.

**Problems or queries**
Phone: 03-9345-7027 Monday – Thursday.
Leave a message on answering machine if there is no answer.
If you have an urgent query, page the orthopaedic registrar through the hospital switch board, on 03-9345-5522.
Please email us with a report of the child’s progress at: limb.recon@rch.org.au