Limb reconstruction pin site care
Arm/monolateral frames

Stock required

- Dressing pack.
- Cotton balls (a few more than the number of pins).
- Clean scissors (two if cutting off old bandages).
- Sterile gloves.
- Non-sterile gloves.
- Alcoholic chlorhexidine (0.5% in 70% alcohol).
- Normal saline 0.9%.
- 5cm Handyband™ bandages × 2.
- Topper™ dressing (Figure 1).

Procedure

- Wash hands.
- Open all sterile stock to be used.
- Pour saline into tray.
- Pour chlorhexidine over Topper™ dressings.
- Remove old dressings using non-sterile gloves (and one pair of scissors if needed).
- Wash hands and put on sterile gloves.
- Wring out chlorhexidine soaked Topper™ until damp.
- Clean each pin site with a separate saline soaked cotton swab (Figure 2).
- No attempt is made to remove scabs/crusts from skin. These will fall off when ready.

- Dress each pinsite with the chlorhexidine soaked Topper™ dressing (Figure 3).

- Fold edges of dressings in ‘on themselves’ to form a neat pad
- Bandage pins in groups, as shown (bolstering) (Figure 4).
• Start to bandage the dressing by enveloping as much of the Topper™ as possible (Figure 4).

Figure 4

• Wrap around a couple of times, then bandage through the centre of the pins in a figure of 8 fashion if possible.
• Bandage close to the edge of the fixator.
• Tuck the edges of the bandages into the dressing bulk, or use tape to secure (Figure 5).

Figure 5

• 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 Topper™ sponge, but do not soak in the chlorhexidine solution.
• Secure to skin by taping down, and bandage as per usual.
• Dress every 7–10 days.

Problems or queries

Limb Reconstruction Service
Cheryl Dingey, Monday to Thursday on 9345 7027 or via switchboard on 9345 5522 (Note if there is no answer, please refer to the ward or leave a message).

If you have an urgent query, page the orthopaedic registrar or the limb reconstruction fellow through the hospital switchboard, on (03) 9345 5522.

Web
www.rch.org.au/limbrecon/