

## Preventing facial skin damage beneath PPE

Ensure you have been correctly fitted for the equipment used in this organisation. Follow the guidelines for donning & doffing.

Pressure damage caused by PPE can occur for three reasons; shearing, friction, and moisture.

Prevention of friction and shearing can be optimised through accurate fit testing and regular, ideally every 2 hours, offloading of the mask.

Prevention of moisture can be optimised through barrier products such as Cavilon™, **Avoid using around the eye area and on the eyelids**

Balance the need for stability of the product against potential skin damage, an adhesive product is much better to prevent slippage and therefore potential leakage but can cause problems if removed frequently.

### First line prevention

Following Trust Guidance on face mask fitting ensuring all folds in the mask have been used. Avoid over tightening.

Keep your skin clean and well hydrated

If you want to apply moisturiser please do so 30 minutes before applying PPE

Apply 3M™ Cavilon™ No Sting Barrier Film swab to all areas that are likely to become moist from sweat and/or expiration. **This will take up to 90 seconds to dry and is extremely flammable until completely dry.**

Check the barrier product doesn't build up residue under the mask.

Perform regularly inspection of your skin for signs of redness/soreness or open areas  
If you feel your mask is digging in, move away from direct patient contact, remove the mask to relieve pressure, remove the mask using doffing guidance and allow the skin to recover for approximately five minutes. Replace your mask with a new one ensuring a good fit.

Stay well hydrated.

**Caution: Skin protectants and emollients with white soft paraffin, such as 50:50 ointment, are flammable; you are advised not to smoke with them on your skin.**

### Second line prevention or treatment of pressure damage

If at all possible, avoid the use of dressings as they may compromise mask fit but if you need to use a product underneath your mask to protect the skin, consider the following; DuoDERM® Extra Thin cut to size and placed on the bridge of the nose, cheeks, tops of ears, and the chin.

**Repeat the fit test after any dressings have been applied**

### Managing pressure damage

If a break occurs in the skin on your face or ears; apply DuoDERM® Extra Thin to the affected area leaving 1cm border from the wound margins. The maximum wear time is 7 days  
Inform your line manager and complete a DATIX incident form

**Any further advice or support needed please do not hesitate to contact your Tissue Viability Nurse Team on 01514301928/2624**

## Application Guide

Directions for use under Personal Protective Equipment – available from ward stock and/or TVN and Equipment Pool.

### First Line Prevention & Treatment

#### Cavilon No Sting Barrier Film

- **Description:** Primary, transparent barrier film providing up to 72 hours protection.
- **Application:** Apply Cavilon no sting barrier film swab to **ALL** areas likely to become moist from sweat/expiration. Allow the product to dry completely for at least 90 seconds before applying PPE. **Please note that Cavilon no sting barrier film is extremely flammable until completely dry.**
- Do not use with any other barrier creams or lotions.



### Second Line Prevention & Treatment

#### Duoderm Extra Thin

- **Description:** Sterile thin dressing for use on dry to slightly exuding wounds.
- **Application:** Cut to size and apply to areas susceptible to pressure such as: cheeks, bridge of the nose, tops of ears and chin.



**All items are obtainable from ward stock or the TVN Equipment Pool**

**For any guidance, arising issues and any support, please do not hesitate to contact your Tissue Viability team ext. 1928/2624**

***'We are here to support staff as well as our patients'***