

## MEDICATION SAFETY

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# SAFER USE OF POTASSIUM PERMANGANATE SOLUTION SOAKS IN WOUND CARE

Potassium permanganate solution is licenced for EXTERNAL USE ONLY in cleansing and deodorising weeping or blistering skin conditions and wounds. Permitabs® tablets (the dry crystals) are highly corrosive to tissue.

Contact with Permitabs® tablets can cause burning of the skin and ingestion can cause death.

### Doctors

- Prescribe **1:10,000 POTASSIUM PERMANGANATE SOAK** on drug chart.
- Treatment should be reviewed on Day 5 by prescriber or Dermatologist.

### Nurses

#### Method for nurses to prepare potassium permanganate solution

1. Wear gloves and an apron to prevent burning and staining of your skin and clothing.
2. Place a clean bin liner in a bucket for potassium permanganate soak and fill with the required amount of water. (Do not use large yellow sharp bins)
3. Dissolve one 400mg potassium permanganate tablet in 4L of water. You should have a rose wine colour solution.

### Pharmacy

- Ensure '1:10,000 POTASSIUM PERMANGANATE SOAK' is prescribed NOT 'Permitab®'
- Endorse 'FOR EXTERNAL USE ONLY' on drug chart when screening potassium permanganate prescription.
- Only supply potassium permanganate tablet for soak in its original container.



Storage: Keep separate from oral medication

Equipment: Measuring Jug (e-procurement UMN308), Bucket (e-procurement MLE489), Clean bin liner, Gloves, Potassium permanganate tablets (permitab®), warm water.



**FOR EXTERNAL USE ONLY. CAN BE FATAL IF INGESTED**