



Medical Direction and Practices Board

White Paper

2019 Burn Management Updates

Background

During the 2019 MDPB Protocol review, MDPB members met with Maine's Burn Center staff to discuss the Burn Protocol. The following changes were made, based on evolution of burn management:

- 1) All burns may be covered with dry dressings, sterile sheets or commercially prepared dry dressings. This change removes the prior protocol's necessity to calculate size and treat smaller burns with wet dressings and larger burns with dry dressings.
- 2) The 2019 update allows for placement of IV access in burned skin, if no other sites are available for IV placement. It is preferable to place an IV in unburned skin, however, if no other options exist, IVs can be placed in burned tissue.
- 3) The 2019 protocol amends and updates prior guidance on burn surface area calculation. Only second (partial thickness) or third (full thickness) burns are counted in the calculation of burn surface area. The patient's hand size (palm PLUS fingers) accounts for approximately 1% of their body surface area. This should be used in circumstances in which only a partial limb is involved in the burn.