Appendix 12.4.1

Wound Management:
Decision tree for aseptic/clean technique

Is the wound acute or chronic?

Acute*  
e.g. recent surgery or traumatic injury  
(burn, scald or laceration)

Use sterile gloves and aseptic technique

Chronic*  
e.g. leg ulcer, pressure sore or malignant wound

Is the patient immunocompromised?  
e.g. Immunosuppressant therapy, very elderly or suffering infection, AIDS-related complex leukaemia

Yes  
No

Use aseptic technique  
Use clean technique

Is the patient's circulation compromised?  
e.g. peripheral ischaemia, diabetes, blood disorder

Yes  
No

Use aseptic technique  
Use clean technique

* - See glossary of terms

(Scanlon, E., 2003 in Infection Control in the Community)