

## **HAWKHURST HOUSE**

### **PROTOCOL FOR RESPONDING TO SKIN TEARS**

1. Carefully clean the skin tear site with normal saline and gauze
2. Re-position the skin flap as best you can
3. Apply steristrips to secure the skin flap
4. Apply a mepore dressing to the skin tear
5. Please mark an arrow (with a pen) the direction the skin flap has been re-positioned
6. Date the dressing with a pen
7. The dressing **MUST** be checked at least 48 hours later unless there has been a strike through on the dressing – then change sooner
8. Update the care plan – ‘skin integrity’
9. Enter the date for the next dressing change into the diary and also the handover sheet
10. Take care removing the dressing – remove the dressing in the direction of the arrow to avoid further trauma to the site.
11. Assess the skin flap – does it require a further dressing or has it healed sufficiently to expose it to the air.
12. If any concerns please seek advice.

Reviewed October 2019