

- no type of wound dressing has been shown to be better than another at reducing the risk of wound infections
- there is no difference in the risk of wound infection when dressings are removed 6 hours postoperatively, compared with 24 hours postoperatively. **[2021]**

For a short explanation of why the committee made these recommendations and how they might affect practice, see the [rationale and impact section on methods to reduce infectious morbidity and wound care after caesarean birth](#).

Full details of the evidence and the committee's discussion are in [evidence review B: methods to reduce infectious morbidity at caesarean birth](#).

1.7.4 Ensure caesarean birth wound care includes:

- removing standard dressings 6 to 24 hours after the caesarean birth
- specific monitoring for fever
- assessing the wound for signs of infection (such as increasing pain, redness or discharge), separation or dehiscence
- encouraging the woman to wear loose, comfortable clothes and cotton underwear
- gently cleaning and drying the wound daily
- if needed, planning the removal of sutures or clips.

Follow the recommendations in the [NICE guideline on surgical site infections](#). **[2004, amended 2021]**

Management of symptoms

1.7.5 When caring for women who have had a caesarean birth who have urinary symptoms, consider possible diagnoses of: