## **O ottobock.**care

# Above knee amputation management.

### **Materials needed:**

4" or 6" inch wide Ace Wrap or equivalent elastic bandage or elastic wrap. You can use two (2) regular length elastic bandages sewn together or one (1) extra long elastic bandage.

You may also attach the wraps together using Velcro connectors or medical tape.

#### Important notes to remember:

- Always consult a medical professional, such as your prosthetist, nurse, or physical therapist, if you are unsure how to properly wrap your limb
- Re-wrap your stump with Ace Wrap every 4-6 hours. Be sure to inspect your limb in-between wrappings
- Make sure there are no wrinkles in the Ace Wrap
- Keep hold of the wrap to keep the tension on the wrap
- The wrap should be snug but you should be able to slide a couple of your fingers under the wrap
- When finished, the wrap should be tighter at the bottom of your limb than at the top of your limb. Put more pressure at the bottom of the residual limb with the wrap than at the top so you do not slow blood flow to the residual limb
- Make sure all areas are covered. The Ace Wrap edges should overlap each other and no skin should be poking through
- Be sure you never wrap the Ace in a full circle around the residual limb. Always use the figure 8 pattern as shown
- Pressure should be directed upward and away from the end of the residual limb as you wrap. Tissue must be "encouraged" upward instead of downward
- The bandages should be worn in a figure 8 wrap as much as can be tolerated. It should be worn at all times other than to inspect the limb and general hygiene management (20-23 hours)
- Anchor the end of the wrap with the Velcro closure. Avoid using safety pins or clips to reduce injury to the skin

#### Washing the bandages:

- Remember to wash the bandages AT LEAST every 2 days or anytime they become soiled
- Use a gentle fragrance free soap and hand wash the elastic wraps in warm water
- Rinse with clean water twice to ensure no soap residue is left on the bandages

### Above knee Figure 8 wrapping



 Start the wrap at the back of the leg and go down around the bottom of the residual limb towards the front.







 Keep moving the wrap around 4. the limb from outside back to the inside. From here, you may also take the wrap around the waist to keep it from sliding.



Take the wrap around the back of limb then across the front moving a little higher than the previous wrap.



- Keep repeating steps 3-4 until 6. the leg is covered. Remember to apply less pressure with wrap as you move up the leg.
- Anchor the end of the wrap with tape or Velcro. Avoid using safety pins or clips to reduce injury to skin.

• Lay flat on a clean towel to dry