**Preventing facial skin damage beneath PPE**

Pressure damage caused by PPE can occur for three reasons; friction pressure and moisture.

* Prevention of friction and pressure can be optimised through accurate fit testing and regular, ideally every 2 hours, offloading the mask, stay well hydrated.
* Risk of skin damage may increase where the nasal bridge is very narrow or has an irregular profile – swift move to the second line prevention may be beneficial if these higher risk indicators are present
* Always Trust guidance on face mask fitting ensuring all folds in the mask have been used. Avoid over tightening.

**First line prevention**

Apply 3M Cavilon TM No Sting Barrier Film swab to all areas that are likely to become moist

From sweat and/ or expiration. This will take up to 90 seconds to dry.

* **\*AVOID USING AROUND THE EYE AREA AND ON THE EYELIDS\***
* Reapplication schedule is not known. Start with a once daily application. No Sting Barrier Film and Dermal S film can be removed with a medical grade adhesive remover ie Appeel. If the user experiences buildup of the product, decrease the frequency of application, e.g. alternate days.
* Perform regular inspection of your skin for signs of redness/soreness or open areas.
* Consider use of an alternative mask you have been fit tested for or have a fit test for a different mask

\*CAUTION: Skin protectants and emollients with soft white paraffin ointment are flammable; you are advised not to smoke with them on your skin.

**Second line prevention or treatment of friction or pressure damage**

If at all possible, avoid the use of dressings as they may compromise mask fit, but if you need to use a product underneath your mask to protect the skin, consider the following:

* Keep your skin clean and well hydrated.

Apply 3M Cavilon TM No Sting Barrier Film as described in First line

**DuoDerm Extra Thin** cut to size and placed on the bridge of the nose, cheeks, tops of ears and on the chin.

* **IT IS ESSENTIAL TO REPEAT A FIT TEST ON THE MAKS IF ANY DRESSING ie DUODERM EXTRA THIN HAS BEEN APPLIED.**

**Managing pressure damage**

If a break occurs in the skin on face or ears;

* Inform you line manager and complete an IR1 incident form.
* Contact Medical Photography via IVOR specifying your location to organise images.