



Clinical Practice Procedures:

Trauma/Skin closure – skin stapler

Policy code	CPP_TR_SCSK_0722
Date	July, 2022
Purpose	To ensure a consistent procedural approach to the skin closure – skin stapler.
Scope	Applies to Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) clinical staff.
Health care setting	Pre-hospital assessment and treatment.
Population	Applies to all ages unless stated otherwise.
Source of funding	Internal – 100%
Author	Clinical Quality & Patient Safety Unit, QAS
Review date	July, 2025
Information security	UNCLASSIFIED – Queensland Government Information Security Classification Framework.
URL	https://ambulance.qld.gov.au/clinical.html

While the QAS has attempted to contact all copyright owners, this has not always been possible. The QAS would welcome notification from any copyright holder who has been omitted or incorrectly acknowledged.

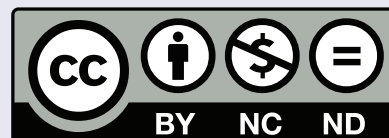
All feedback and suggestions are welcome. Please forward to: Clinical.Guidelines@ambulance.qld.gov.au

Disclaimer

The Digital Clinical Practice Manual is expressly intended for use by appropriately qualified QAS clinicians when performing duties and delivering ambulance services for, and on behalf of, the QAS.

The QAS disclaims, to the maximum extent permitted by law, all responsibility and all liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages and costs incurred for any reason associated with the use of this manual, including the materials within or referred to throughout this document being in any way inaccurate, out of context, incomplete or unavailable.

© State of Queensland (Queensland Ambulance Service) 2022.



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives V4.0 International License

You are free to copy and communicate the work in its current form for non-commercial purposes, as long as you attribute the State of Queensland, Queensland Ambulance Service and comply with the licence terms. If you alter the work, you may not share or distribute the modified work. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/deed.en>

For copyright permissions beyond the scope of this license please contact: Clinical.Guidelines@ambulance.qld.gov.au

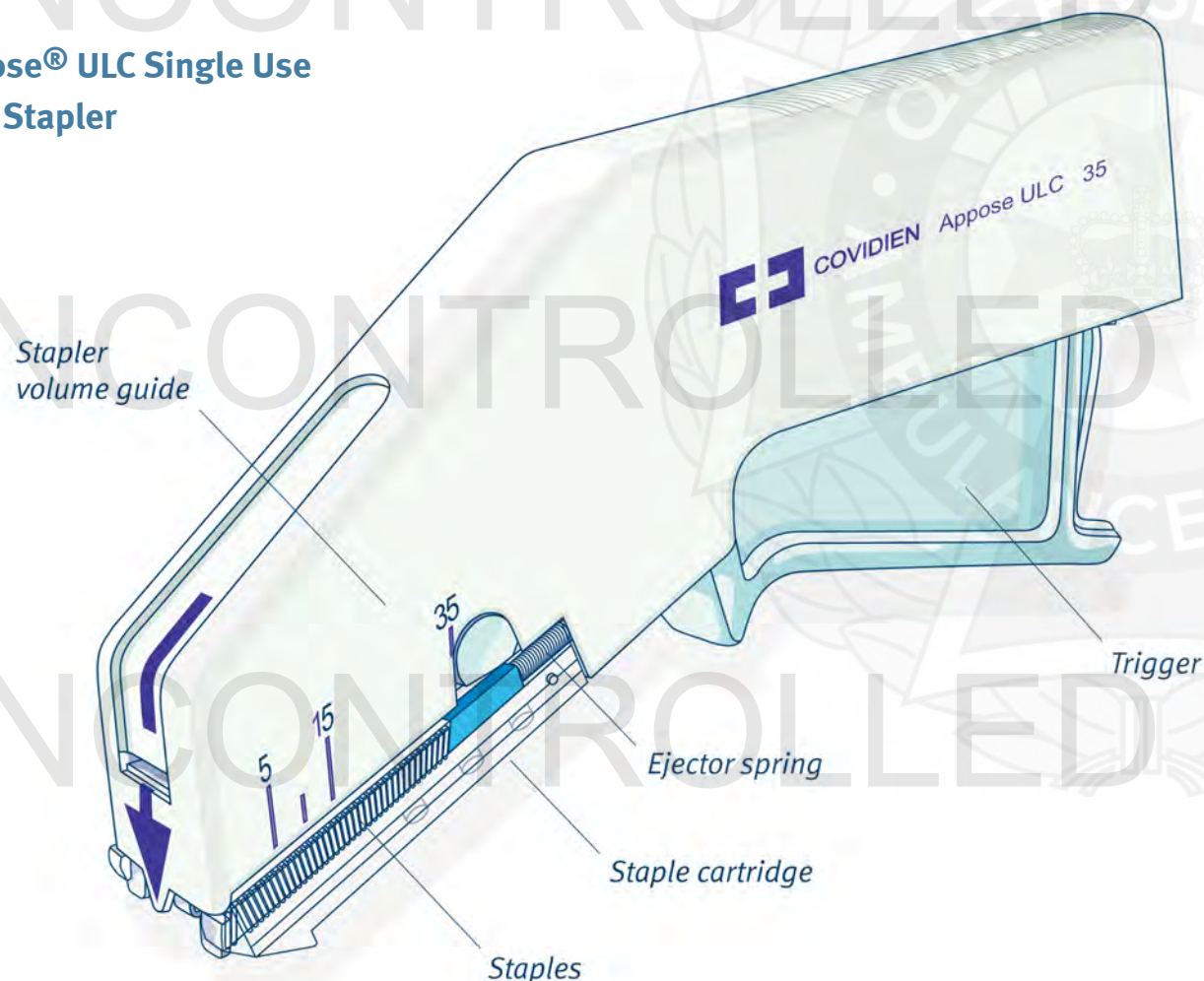
Skin closure – Skin stapler

July, 2022

The **skin stapler** is an effective wound closure device that is simple and easy to use in the pre-hospital environment.

The QAS currently supplies the Appose ULC Single Use Skin Stapler^[1] which is pre-loaded with 35 wide staples. It works by dispensing one staple each time the instrument is triggered. The staples first penetrate the skin and are then formed, holding the tissue together. The stapler can be triggered from multiple angles and the ejector spring automatically disengages the staple to facilitate instrument removal from any direction. The staple cartridge is clear to allow visibility of the staple count at all times.

Appose® ULC Single Use Skin Stapler



Indications

- Closure of head laceration(s) unable to be controlled by direct pressure or standard dressing
- Closure of thoracostomy wound

Contraindications

- Lacerations of the ears

Complications

- Staples will cause artefact on a CT scan
- Paediatrics
- Grossly contaminated wounds

Procedure – Single use skin stapler

1. Bring wound edges together and evert edges, where possible.
2. Starting at one end, place the stapler gently on the tissue with the directional arrow in the middle of the wound.
3. Squeeze the trigger completely and release.
4. Repeat procedure along the wound until completely closed, spacing the staples slightly less than 1 cm apart.

Additional information

- Clinicians must ensure that the exact number of staples applied to the patient is accurately recorded on a patient's eARF.

