CLAIMS

1. A negative pressure wound dressing (1) comprising a backing layer (7), an adhesive skin contact layer (20) and an absorbent structure wherein the adhesive skin contact layer (20) is configured to detachably adhere the dressing to a dermal surface, wherein the backing layer (7) comprises an aperture for connection to a negative pressure source, wherein the absorbent structure comprises a wound contact layer (4) arranged to contact the wound when the adhesive skin contact layer (20) is adhered to the skin adjacent the wound, further wherein the wound contact layer (4) comprises an antimicrobial agent comprising ionic silver, characterised in that the wound contact layer (4) comprises multiple layers each formed of carboxyalkylcellulose, or a salt thereof, fibres.

2. A negative pressure wound dressing (1) according to claim 1, wherein the carboxyalkylcellulose, or a salt thereof, fibres have a degree of substitution of between about 0.05 carboxyalkyl groups per glucose unit and about 0.50 carboxyalkyl groups per glucose unit.

3. A negative pressure wound dressing (1) according to claim 2, wherein the degree of substitution is about 0.30 carboxyalkyl groups per glucose unit.

4. A negative pressure wound dressing (1) according to claim 2 or 3, wherein the antimicrobial agent is dispersed upon the carboxyalkylcellulose, or a salt thereof, fibres.

5. A negative pressure wound dressing (1) according to any one of claims 2 to 4, wherein the carboxyalkylcellulose, or a salt thereof, fibres are sodium carboxymethylcellulose fibres.

6. A negative pressure wound dressing (1) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the wound contact layer (4) has a basis weight of between 160 g/m^2 and 480 g/m^2.

7. A negative pressure wound dressing (1) according to claim 1, wherein each layer of carboxyalkylcellulose, or a salt thereof, fibres has a basis weight of between 40 g/m^2 and 240 g/m^2.

8. A negative pressure wound dressing (1) according to claim 1, wherein the combined basis weight of the multiple layers of carboxyalkylcellulose, or a salt thereof, fibres is between 160 g/m^2 and 480 g/m^2.

9. A negative pressure wound dressing (1) according to claim 1, wherein the wound contact layer (4) comprises only two layers of carboxyalkylcellulose, or a salt thereof, fibres, and optionally wherein each layer has a basis weight of 100 g/m^2.

10. A negative pressure wound dressing (1) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the ionic silver is present in the antimicrobial agent at a concentration of from 0.10 wt.% to 10.0 wt.%.

11. A negative pressure wound dressing (1) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the wound contact layer (4) further comprises an antibiofilm agent.

12. A negative pressure wound dressing (1) according to claim 11, wherein the antibiofilm agent comprises a chelating agent, optionally wherein the chelating agent is ethylenediaminetetra-acetic acid (EDTA) or a salt thereof, optionally di-sodium or calcium di-sodium salts, further optionally wherein the chelating agent is present in an amount of between 0.5 wt.% and 10 wt.%, preferably between 1 wt.% and 3 wt.%.

13. A method for manufacturing a negative pressure wound dressing according to any one of claims 1 to 12 comprising the steps:

    a. Providing an adhesive skin contact layer and a backing layer;

b. Providing a wound contact layer and an absorbent structure comprising a transmission layer and a superabsorbent layer, wherein the wound contact layer comprises an antimicrobial agent comprising ionic silver, further wherein the wound contact layer comprises multiple layers each formed of carboxyalkylcellulose, or a salt thereof, fibres; and

c. Arranging the absorbent structure between the wound contact layer and the backing layer.

14. A negative pressure wound exudate management system (400) comprising the negative pressure wound dressing (1, 420) of any one of claims 1 to 12 and further comprising:

a. A source (410) of negative pressure; and

b. a conduit or tube (440, 450) for providing negative pressure to the wound dressing (1, 420) via an internal lumen (442, 452) of the conduit or tube (440, 450) and an opening in the wound dressing (1, 420).