Appendix 1

Algorithm for Assessment and Management of Chronic Wounds (adult)

A holistic assessment and application of best practice will support improved outcomes for patients.

Key - Process → Guidance - - → * refer to local guidance and pathways

1) Identify type of wound:
Diabetic Foot Ulcer
refer to diabetic podiatry/MDT

- - → SIGN 116 - Management of Diabetes (Revised 2014)
International Consensus
Diabetic foot problems: prevention and management, NICE guidelines [NG19] (2015)

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Venous Leg Ulcer

- - → SIGN 120 - Management of Chronic Venous Leg Ulcers (August 2010)
Best Practice Statement: Holistic Management of Venous Leg Ulceration (2016)

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Pressure Ulcers

- - → Best Practice Statement (March 2009) Prevention and Management of Pressure Ulcers
Pressure Ulcer Prevention and Management Standards (September 2016)

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All other wounds

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2) Holistic Assessment
- Patient: co-morbidities
- Wound: exudate, viscosity
- Consider other aetiology.

- - → General Wound Assessment Chart
Scottish Wound Assessment and Action Guide (SWAAG)
Local guidelines/pathways

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3) Identify if non-viable tissue present:
- Reduces effectiveness of topical agents
- Increases signs of inflammation, odour and infection.

- - → Effective Debridement in a Changing NHS, Wounds UK (2013)

→ **Yes**

Consider blood supply to wound
Is it suitable for debridement?

Yes		**No**
Debridement Options*:		**Don't debride**
Autolytic	Mechanical	Keep dry
Larvae	Enzymatic	Refer to vascular or other relevant specialist service*
Sharp	Surgical	

↓ **No**

4) Identify if infection present
Using Scottish Ropper Ladder for Infected Wounds (see appendix 2)

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5) Choose dressing, cleansing and treatment options- based on holistic assessment above

- - → **Refer to:**
Local wound formulary

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6) Formal review of patient and wound at regular intervals
Minimum of every two weeks*

→ **Healed** → Monitor and prevention strategies

→ **Not healed** → **Return to 2) Holistic assessment**
If no signs of healing after 6 weeks refer to relevant specialist service*

Resource developed by SLWG for Antimicrobial Wound Dressings consisting of Health board and speciality representatives.
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NHS SCOTLAND