

Tissue Viability (TV) Referral Pathway for Care Homes

NB: ONLY NHS Healthcare professionals can make direct referral to Tissue Viability

Non-Urgent TV Concerns

Unresolved Pressure Ulcer Prevention problem.

and/or

Wound not progressing.

Action: Go to Box A

Urgent TV Concerns

If NHS or Social Work professional deems TV situation to be urgent e.g. **New** Grade 3 & 4 pressure ulcer. **New** rapidly deteriorating complex wounds e.g. escalating wound infection, exposure of underlying structures e.g. Bone, tendon, bowel etc.

Resident is deemed to be at risk from harm in relation to TV.

Inform/discuss decision to escalate to TV with Line Manager/Senior Nurse.

Action: Go to Box C

BOX A - Unresolved Pressure Ulcer Prevention problem and/or wound not progressing

1. Care facility undertake holistic assessment of wound/person/situation, including pressure ulcer risk assessment. Document appropriately.
2. Discuss and review findings with local TV Link Practitioner or senior colleagues within facility. Consult with Multi Disciplinary Team when appropriate.
3. **EITHER**
Refer to the Lothian Joint Formulary dressing selection guide to plan wound management and request appropriate dressings.
OR
Refer to local Pressure Ulcer Prevention guidelines.
4. Implement agreed outcomes and evaluate.
5. If wound progressing and/or situation improving/resolved then repeat steps 1 – 4 as appropriate.
6. If situation unresolved/Tissue viability needs not met **Action: Go to Box B**

BOX B - Situation still unresolved/wound still not progressing or is deteriorating

1. Refer to Local Community Nursing Team linked to the patient's GP Surgery for a one-off assessment and expert clinical guidance.
2. Community Nurses will consult with local NHS TV Link Practitioner if further expertise is required.
3. If situation unresolved and out-with Community Nurses competence then electronic TV Referral form and photographs should be completed by Community Nursing/Care home support Team and sent to TV service eWound Clinic.

BOX C - Urgent Tissue Viability Referral by NHS/Social Work professional requires:

1. **High importance email:** to tissue.viability@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk. Requesting call back to discuss case.
2. **NHS Professional** to complete electronic TV Referral form and email to: tissue.viability@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk stating urgent email has been sent & discussed with TVN.
3. Consult local policy regarding people at risk.

Any queries about progress of referral please email: tissue.viability@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk