

Leg Ulcer Management and Referral Pathway

Patient admitted to clinical area - remove all bandages (including compression bandages) and dressings on arrival.

YOU NEED TO KNOW WHAT'S UNDERNEATH

- 1) Complete a full skin assessment
- 2) Document a wound assessment on EPR (for any identified wounds)
- 3) Photograph any identified wounds

Has the patient been admitted with compression bandages or has lower limb wound, below the knee but above the malleolus?

NO

This pathway is not appropriate for this patient.
If wound is on the foot refer to OUH Foot Ulcer Pathway and refer to Podiatry Team.

YES

Assess for red flags*

- Acute infection (e.g., increasing unilateral erythema, swelling, pain, pus, heat).
- Symptoms of sepsis.
- Acute or suspected chronic limb threatening ischaemia, (e.g., PAD in combination with rest pain, gangrene, or lower limb ulceration >2 weeks duration).
- Suspected acute deep vein thrombosis (DVT).
- Suspected skin cancer.
- Bleeding varicose veins.

Review red flags at each dressing change.

Does the patient have any of the red flags?

NO

- Cleanse the lower limb and foot with pH neutral skin cleanser.
- Apply emollient to skin.
- Soak open areas of ulceration with Prontosan Solution for 10-15 mins, then gently cleanse the ulceration.
- Follow the OUH Lower Limb Care - 4 Steps.
- Refer to Tissue Viability Service on EPR.

YES

- If signs of sepsis immediately inform the medical team.
- Sepsis or spreading infection swab the wound and If signs of limb ischaemia medical team to make URGENT Vascular referral.
- If signs of suspected DVT immediately inform medical team.
- If signs of bleeding varicose veins - apply absorbent non adherent dressing and immediately inform medical team.
- If signs of suspected skin cancer medical team to refer to Dermatology.

- The Tissue Viability Service will respond to referrals in 1 working day and full holistic assessment in 5 working days if referral accepted. Please follow treatment plan as advised by the Tissue Viability Service.
- Ward staff may change Urgo Ktwo reduced compression ONLY if trained to do so and OUH Trust Compression Bandage Proficiencies have been completed.