

What's new in Ulcer and Wound Management 2 (2019)

Some of the new information and major changes included in *Therapeutic Guidelines: Ulcer and Wound Management*, version 2.

The Ulcer and Wound Management guidelines have been extensively revised. They focus on individualised, patient-centred therapy to optimise the treatment and prevention of common ulcers and wounds. Throughout the guideline, practice point boxes are provided with practical tips to help clinicians.

The **fundamentals of ulcer and wound management** are addressed in the opening topic, with new text on preventing the first ulcer or wound. **Assessing patients with an ulcer or wound** includes updated photos of common wound characteristics, and a new section on differential diagnosis to ensure less common causes of an ulcer or wound are considered.

Surgical procedures are common. A new topic on **surgical wounds** provides detailed information on prevention, and assessment and management of surgical wounds, including surgical scars, and skin grafts and donor sites.

A topic on **minor burns** is now included to help community-based management. Presentation, treatment and expected healing outcomes for burns are provided in one easy-to-use table. Based on the detailed recommendations from the Australian and New Zealand Burn Association, this topic is a practical summary for the busy practitioner.

New topics on **abrasions** and **haematomas** have been added. Accurate haematoma assessment is emphasised to ensure appropriate management and reduce poor patient outcomes.

The **pressure injuries** topic has been updated to align with the current international terminology and staging system. To help readers, cross-sectional diagrams and photos have been added for each pressure injury stage.

Wounds on a high-risk foot provides advice for patients at high risk of amputation, ulceration or infection due to complications from a chronic disease causing neuropathy, peripheral arterial disease or foot deformity. It includes practical advice for patients about footwear and foot care (printable from *eTG complete*), and comprehensive information about assessment and pressure redistribution strategies.

Leg ulceration remains a significant problem, especially for the elderly. Summary management flowcharts are provided for **venous leg ulcers**, **arterial leg ulcers** and **leg ulcers not cause by venous or arterial disease**.

A guide to starting **compression therapy** is included to help practitioners choose a patient-friendly compression therapy for venous leg ulcers. Practice points for applying compression, and an information sheet for patients using compression therapy (printable from *eTG complete*) are also included. Information about the types of compression has been significantly revised and updated.

Information about different antiseptics and when they are indicated is included in the **cleansing and debridement** topic, as well as information on biofilm eradication.

Choosing a wound dressing is complicated, and the number of dressings available is increasing. The **ulcer and wound dressings** topic helps clinicians choose a dressing based on the characteristics of both the wound and patient. A table of appropriate wound dressings based on wound characteristics has been included to aid dressing choice and help primary healthcare providers know which dressings to keep. Detailed information about each dressing type and an overview of specialised dressings are also included, along with a table on how to choose a new dressing (based on wound characteristics) after a dressing change.

Many factors affect the ability of an ulcer or wound to heal. The topic on **factors affecting ulcer or wound healing** has been expanded to include information about the effect of oedema on wound healing, and the information about infection and nutrition has been significantly revised.

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