

Medicines Optimisation Tips on Appropriate Use of Dressings for Practice/Community Nurses



DO prescribe from the Wound Formulary

Community nurses should request prescriptions for dressings using their Dressings Order Form that provides formulary choices. Anything non-formulary should be justified with a specific reason and where appropriate agreed with a Specialist Tissue Viability Nurse (TVN).



DO prescribe the smallest size needed that encompasses the wound size

The cost of dressings increases with size so using the right size will be more cost-effective.



DO prescribe the minimum quantity needed

Wounds change regularly and excessive quantities lead to significant waste.



DO use ONPOS supplies for up to three weeks if a CCT patient

Online Non Prescription Ordering Service supplies of formulary items are available to community nurses for up to three weeks. After this, a prescription will be needed. Community Care Teams should order appropriately from ONPOS and use the Dressings Order Form when requesting a prescription from the GP.



Do use the referral process, if specialist advice is required

Community nurses should contact the Tissue Viability Team on **07733 264059 for advice**. Please use the referral form to send medical history, medication and photos. This can be downloaded from the WHCCG website [LINK](#)

Please email the form to hp-tr.clinicaladmin@nhs.net

Please note the fax number has now been discontinued



DO NOT prescribe dressings as long term repeats

Dressings should be prescribed as acute prescriptions due to the likelihood of wounds changing with time to avoid waste and inappropriate continued use.



DO NOT prescribe silver (or any other antimicrobial) dressings for more than 2 weeks routinely

Silver is a very expensive, third-line antimicrobial to be used after iodine and honey. Two weeks treatment is often sufficient to reduce the bacterial burden in the wound. Follow the SIGN checker in the Wound Formulary Handbook and see separate Guidance on Appropriate use of Silver Dressings [LINK](#)



DO NOT prescribe shaped dressings (heel, sacral etc.)

Ready shaped dressings rarely fit specific wounds on the heel or sacrum and can be counterproductive, square dressings should be cut to size and shaped appropriately.

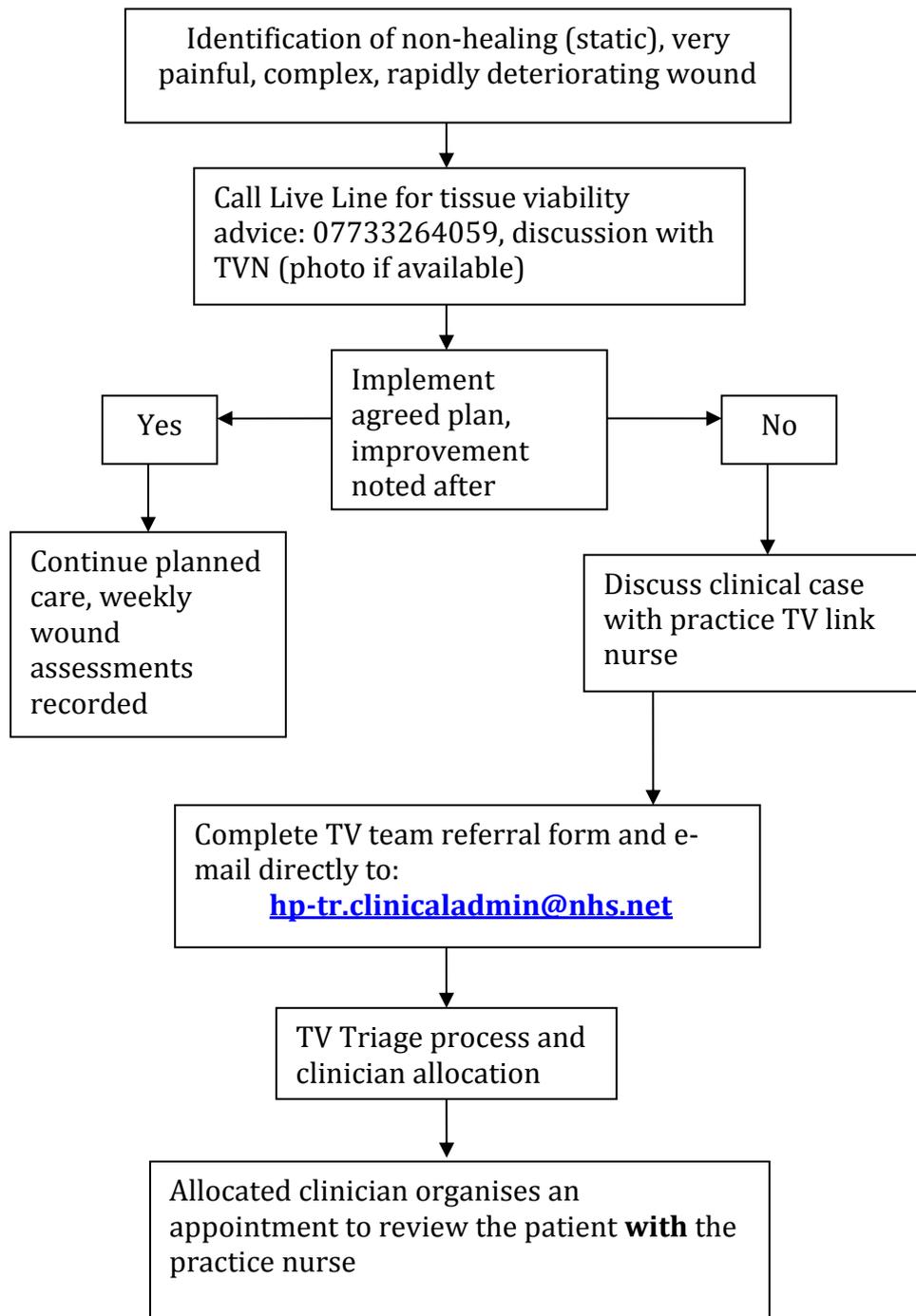


DO NOT open and use dressings more than once

Products bearing a circular symbol containing the number 2 and scored through are for single use only.

West Hampshire CCG website – www.westhampshireccg.nhs.uk/medicines/for_healthcare_professionals

Community Nurse Referral Pathway



References

1. Wound Formulary Handbook 2016, Basingstoke, Southampton and Winchester DPC and Portsmouth and South East Hampshire APC
2. NHS HIGHLANDS Wound Formulary and Wound Management Guidelines
<http://www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/Publications/Documents/Guidelines/Wound%20Formulary/NHS%20Highland%20Wound%20Management%20Guidelines%20and%20Formulary.pdf>
3. Southern Health Tissue Viability Service