

# WOUND CARE

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A scenic coastal landscape featuring a white lighthouse perched on a green, rocky cliffside. The ocean is a vibrant blue, with several large, dark rock formations scattered in the water. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

**Prevention is better than  
cure.**

Desiderius Erasmus

# Agenda

- New Island Health Wound Care Education
  - The basics
  - Wound Types and Diagnostics and practice updates
  - Products and updates
- 
- In development for wound care

# Island Health Skin and Wound Care Education

- [Island Health Skin and Wound Care pages](#)
- Mandatory wound care education on hire for: How wounds heal, wound assessment, pressure injury
- Cape tool for 9 month education program for all wound types
- Procedures for packing and swabbing
- E-Learning modules
- Best practice guidelines
- Dedicated one stop pages for information

# Main page

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Skin, Wound, Ostomy and Continence

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Island Health Skin, Wound, Ostomy and Continence

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[Skin and Wound Care](#)

[Continence](#)

[Ostomy](#)

Additional Webpages / SharePoint Sites

# Dedicated Pages

Click the button below that applies to your work area, for more information.

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Amputee Care

Education & Care

Pressure Injury

Basic Education & Care

Continence

Clinical Resources & Products

Product Support

Community Health Services: Skin & Wound Products

Diabetic and  
Neuropathic Injury

Basic Education & Care

Negative Pressure  
Wound Therapy

Community Health Services:  
Education & Care

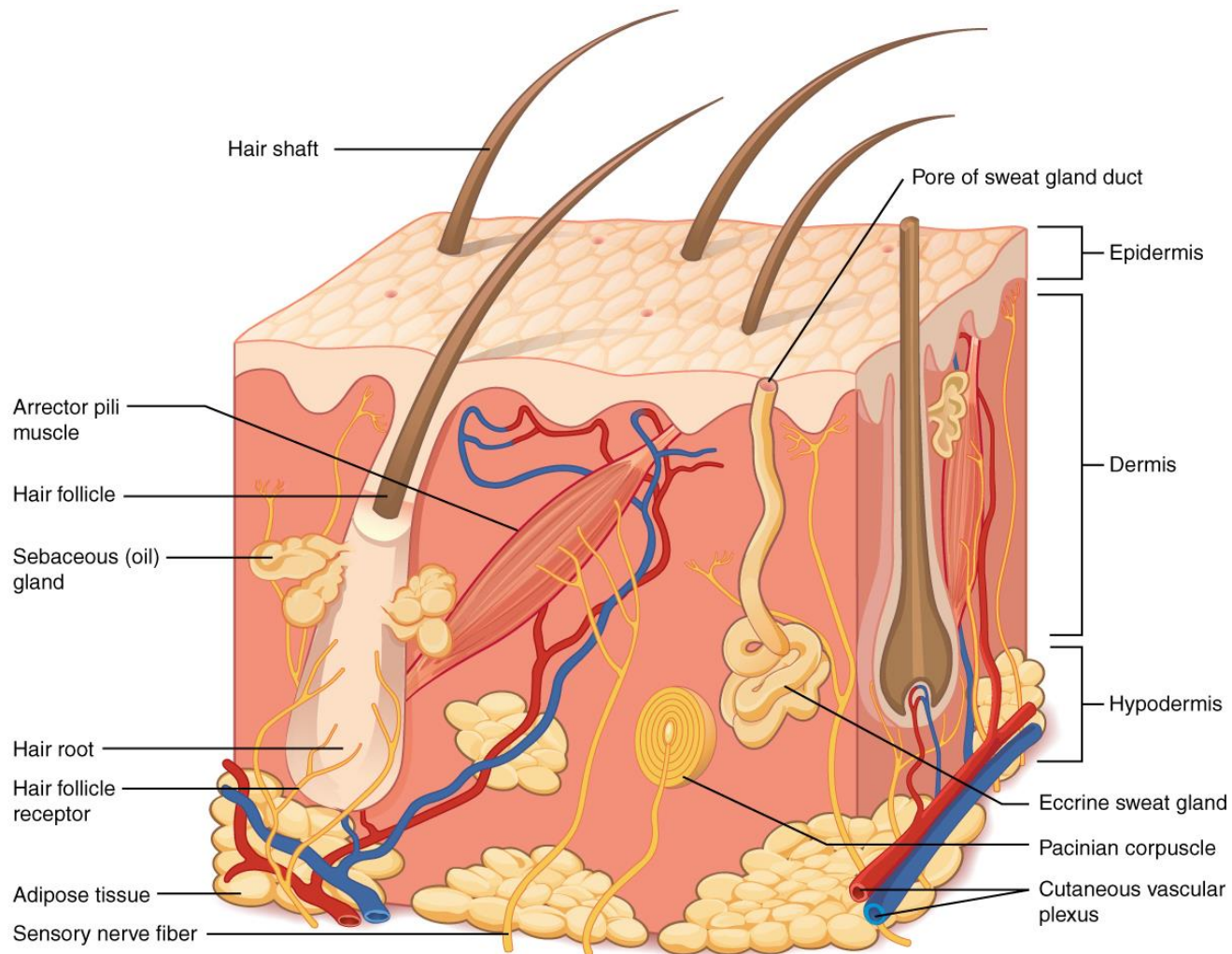
Ostomy

Patient, clinical resources and  
supplies

# Functions of the Skin

- Protection
- Thermoregulation
- Sensation
- Metabolism
- Communication

# Anatomy of the Skin



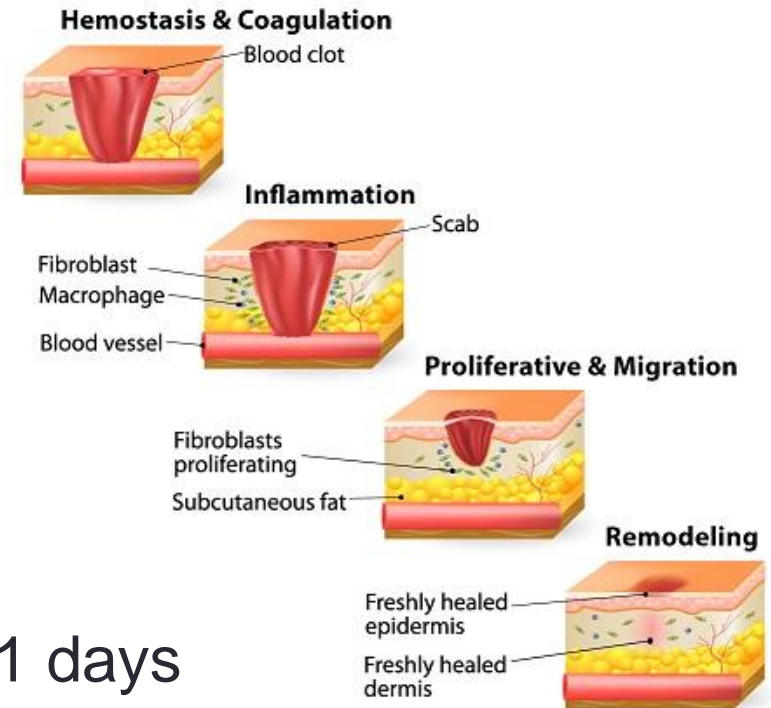


# Factors that Contribute to impaired Skin Integrity

- Circulation
- Nutrition
- Condition of the Epidermis
- Allergies
- Infections
- Systemic disease
- Trauma
- Medications
- Excessive exposure to the sun
- Mechanical forces- Friction, Shearing, Pressure

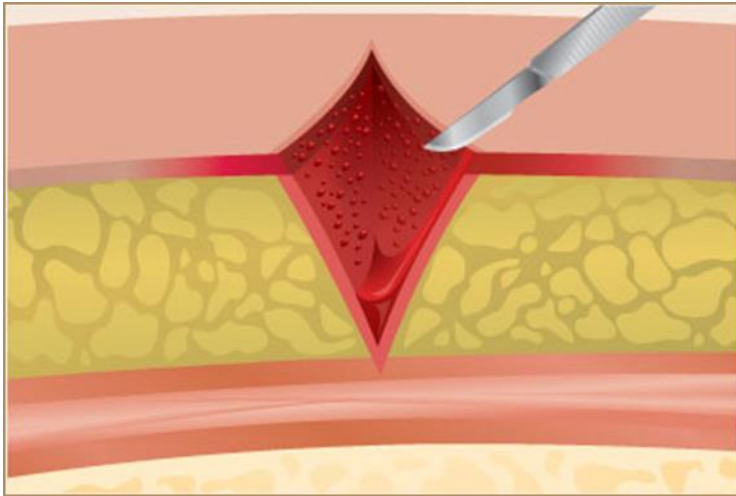
# Wound Healing Trajectory

## WOUND HEALING



- Hemostasis – first 24hours
- Inflammation – 1-4 days
- Proliferation or granulation – 4-21 days
- Remodeling or maturation – up to 2 years

# Hemostasis



## Hemostasis

Occurs immediately after the injury. The blood begins clotting at the wound site and vasoconstriction occurs

## **Clinical Goal:**

- Stop bleeding

# Inflammatory

## Inflammation

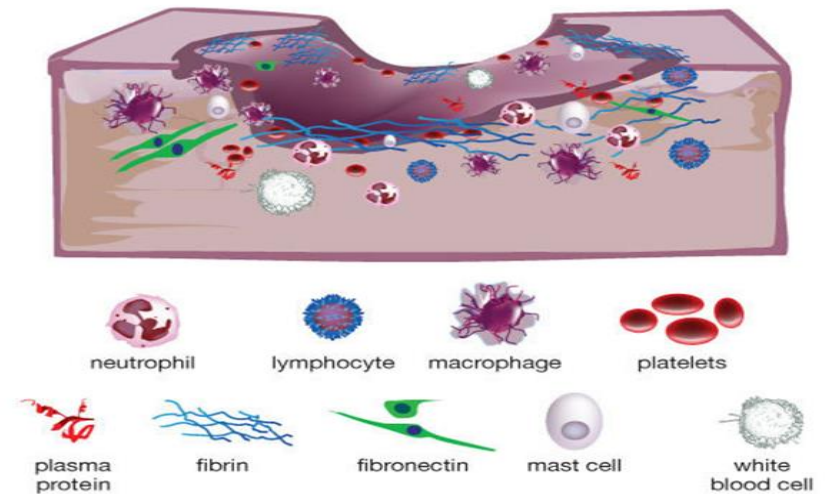
Begins right after the injury and lasts 4 - 6 days following the injury. A vascular and cellular response occurs in which a number of cells, including platelets, neutrophils and macrophages, migrate to the wound site

## Clinical Goal:

Manage excessive inflammation

Assist wound progression

phase I: inflammatory



# Proliferation and Granulation 4-21 days



## **Proliferation**

Between 3 and 21 days, tissue reconstruction begins, including angiogenesis, granulation and epithelialization

## **Clinical Goal:**

Reduce wound volume  
Assist wound progression  
Prepare wound for closure

# Remodeling or maturation – up to 2 years

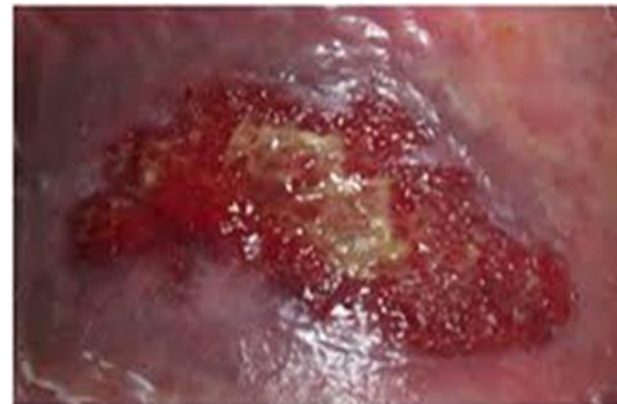
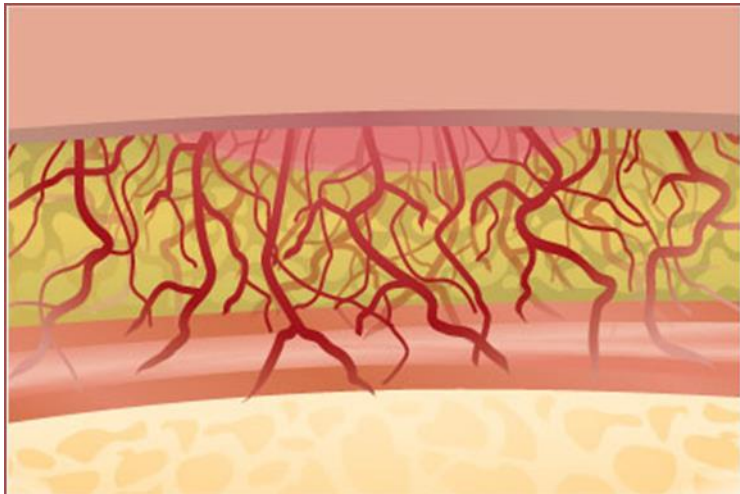
Interior finishing/remodelling or maturation goal is to increase tensile strength

Results in a scar-active dynamic tissue

Stage 1: (up to 4 wks) soft fine and weak

Stage II: (4-12 weeks) red and hard and Strong

Stage III: (12wks to 2 yrs) soft, white and supple scar)



# Barriers to Wound Healing

- Necrotic tissue
- Infection
- Hemorrhage
- Pressure
- Mechanical damage
- Medical conditions
  - Diabetes
  - Vascular diseases
- Age
- Medicines
- Smoking
- Skin dryness



**"What fits your busy schedule better, exercising one hour a day or being dead 24 hours a day?"**

# Nutrition is key

## Nutritional Status

- Nutrition is a critical factor in wound healing
- Patients who are nutritionally compromised cannot heal
- Albumin
  - Normal range: 35 – 50 g/L
  - Takes 21 days for changes in nutrition to change level
  - Wounds will not heal period if Albumin below 12 g/L





# Is it infected or critically colonized



friable tissue

- Has the drainage increased
- Is it more painful or pain in a insensate diabetic
- Heat
- Erythema to Periwound 2 cm
- Sugars uncontrolled by insulin if diabetic

# Updated evidence

INTERNATIONAL CONSENSUS UPDATE 2016



INTERNATIONAL  
WOUND  
INFECTION  
INSTITUTE

**WOUND INFECTION IN  
CLINICAL PRACTICE**

Principles of best practice

# Treatment indications

Figure 1 | IWII wound infection continuum<sup>22, 24, 25</sup>

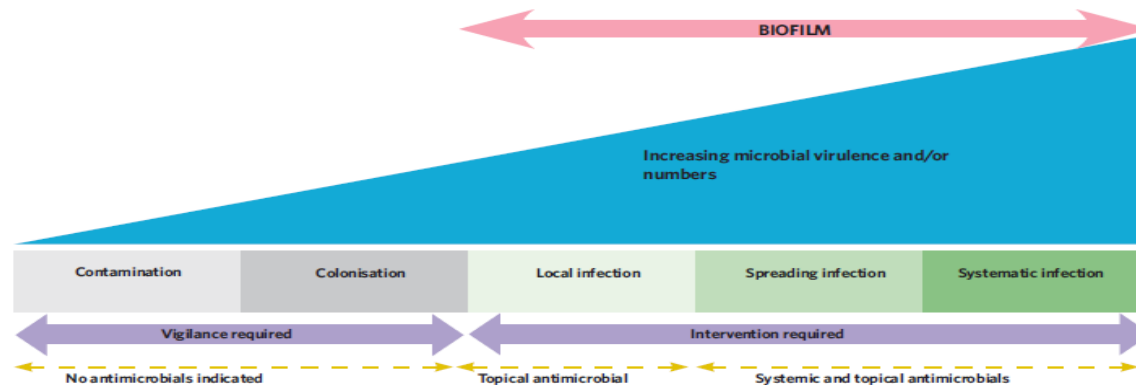
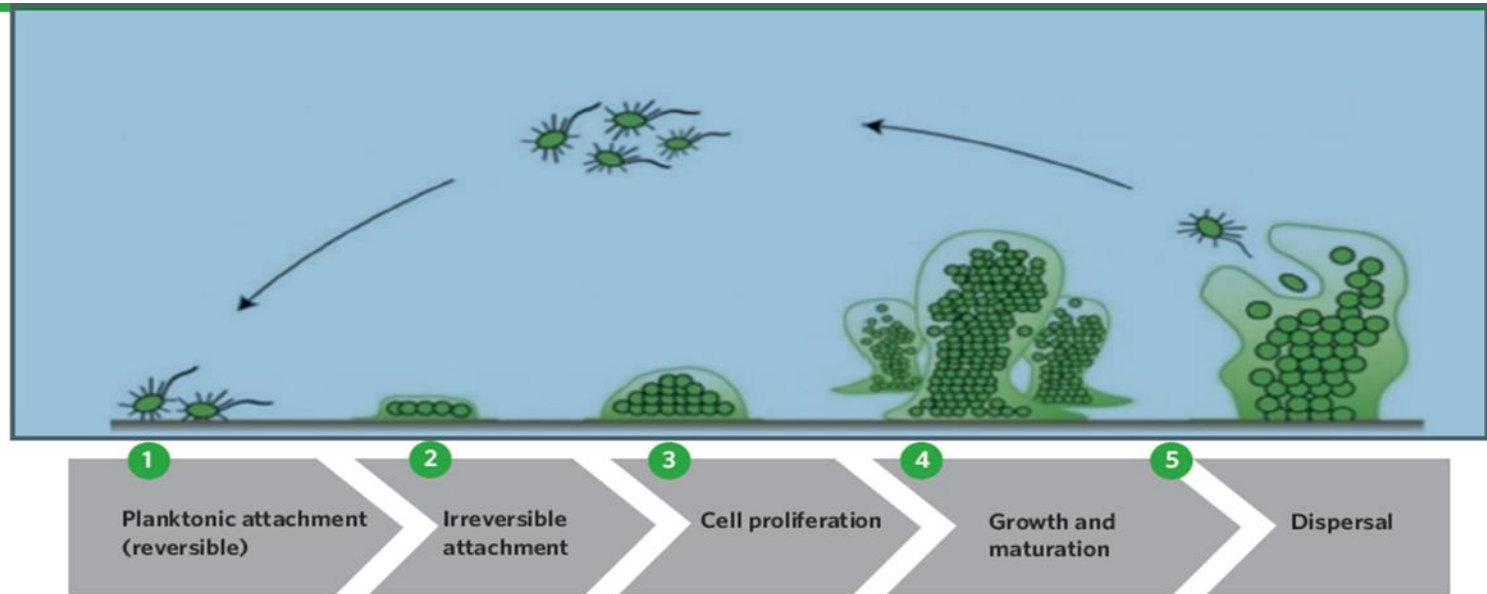


Table 1: Signs and symptoms associated with stages of the wound infection continuum				
Contamination <sup>26</sup>	Colonisation <sup>26</sup>	Local infection	Spreading infection <sup>22, 23</sup>	Systemic infection <sup>22, 23</sup>
All wounds may acquire micro-organisms. If suitable nutritive and physical conditions are not available for each microbial species, or they are not able to successfully evade host defences, they will not multiply or persist; their presence is therefore only transient and wound healing is not delayed	Microbial species successfully grow and divide, but do not cause damage to the host or initiate wound infection	Covert (subtle) signs of local infection: <sup>2, 27-36</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Hypergranulation (excessive 'vascular' tissue)</li> <li>■ Bleeding, friable granulation</li> <li>■ Epithelial bridging and pocketing in granulation tissue</li> <li>■ Wound breakdown and enlargement</li> <li>■ Delayed wound healing beyond expectations</li> <li>■ New or increasing pain</li> <li>■ Increasing malodour</li> </ul>	Overt (classic) signs of local infection: <sup>2, 27, 28, 35, 36</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Erythema</li> <li>■ Local warmth</li> <li>■ Swelling</li> <li>■ Purulent discharge</li> <li>■ Delayed wound healing beyond expectations</li> <li>■ New or increasing pain</li> <li>■ Increasing malodour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Extending in duration +/- erythema</li> <li>■ Lymphangitis</li> <li>■ Crepitus</li> <li>■ Wound breakdown/dehiscence with or without satellite lesions</li> <li>■ Malaise/lethargy or non-specific general deterioration</li> <li>■ Loss of appetite</li> <li>■ Inflammation, swelling of lymph glands</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Severe sepsis</li> <li>■ Septic shock</li> <li>■ Organ failure</li> <li>■ Death</li> </ul>



#### Box 1: Criteria indicative of potential biofilm

- Failure of appropriate antibiotic treatment
- Recalcitrance to appropriate antimicrobial treatment
- Recurrence of delayed healing on cessation of antibiotic treatment
- Delayed healing despite optimal wound management and health support
- Increased exudate/moisture
- Low-level chronic inflammation
- Low-level erythema
- Poor granulation/friable hypergranulation
- Secondary signs of infection

# Biofilm Assessment/Treatment

- Invisible to the eye
- Can have a yellow fur, but not always
- Suspect in older stalled wounds when Antibiotics not effective
- Wounds in boxer short region or feet
- Diabetics with poor sugar control

## **Treatment**

- Mechanical Debridement
- Surgical removal
- Maggots?
- Gauze 20 minute Prontosan soaks

# What is Prontosan?



PIP

## Effect of a wound cleansing solution on wound bed preparation and inflammation in chronic wounds: a single-blind RCT

- **Objective:** Research into surfactant solutions for the debridement of chronic wounds suggests that surfactants may support wound bed preparation (WBP) in chronic wounds, however their efficacy has not been evaluated in randomised controlled trials (RCTs). Our aim was to assess the clinical efficacy of a propylbetaine-polihexanide (PP) solution versus normal saline (NS) solution in WBP, assessing inflammatory signs and wound size reduction in patients with pressure ulcers (PUs) or vascular leg ulcers.
- **Method:** In a single-blinded randomised controlled trial (RCT) patients were randomly allocated to two groups and treated with either propylbetaine-polihexanide (PP) solution (Prontosan) or NS. Wounds were assessed using the Bates-Jensen wound assessment tool (BWAT). Assessments took place at inclusion (T0), day 7 (T1), day 14 (T2), day 21 (T3), and day 28 (T4). Outcomes were analysed using a two-tailed Student's t-test.
- **Results:** A total of 289 patients were included. Both groups had similar demographics, clinical status, and wound characteristics. Data analysis showed statistically significant differences between T0 and T4 for the following outcomes: BWAT total score,  $p=0.0248$ ; BWAT score for inflammatory items,  $p=0.03$ ; BWAT scores for wound size reduction ( $p=0.049$ ) and granulation tissue improvement ( $p=0.043$ ), all in favour of PP. The assessment of pain did not show any significant difference between the two groups.
- **Conclusion:** The study results showed significantly higher efficacy of the PP solution versus NS solution, in reducing inflammatory signs and accelerating the healing of vascular leg ulcers and PUs. This evidence supports the update of protocols for the care of chronic wounds.

# Wound Assessment

- Etiology
- What stage is the wound in?
  - How did it start how old?
  - Exposed Structures ?
  - Improving/ no change/ worse
- Is it infected or critically colonized ?
- Comorbid conditions
- Goal for wound-Fragility scale
- Patients goals
- Current care?

## Review

- Diabetic control A1C
- Nutritional status blood work
- smoking
- Hemoglobin
- Albumin
- Anticoagulant therapy
- Autoimmune disorders
- Blood flow if lower limb(ABI) Doppler exam
- Venous disease
- Heart failure
- Blood pressure
- Medications like prednisone/chemo

# Human factors

- Patient compliancy
- cognition
- Appetite
- What surfaces they are on and what is available
- Overall ability to heal

- Look at the availability of supplies
- Cost of dressings (who is paying)
- Expertise and training of provider doing care
- Time and accessibility of provider to give care

## The interaction of human factors





# Care by Wound Types/ Etiology

- Skin Tears
- Burns
- Venous disease
- Arterial Disease
- Diabetic ulcers
- Cancers
- Pressure Injury



# Skin Tears

- Risk factors
- Increased age
- Dryness
- Prednisone
- Shear
- Friction
- trauma

## Assess

- infection

## Treatment

- Close flap +/- skin glue
- Non adherent change q3 to 5 days
- Wrap dressing/no tape or strong adhesive
- Review of transfers and equipment
- Moisturize skin

# Burns

## Risk factors

- Male 17 to 35
- Mental health issues coupled with or without Addictions
- Alcohol
- Cooking Drugs at home
- Children in Kitchens
- Loss of sensation



## Actions

TBSA at time of burn and 72 hours post  
Dress with Restore or jelonet 1<sup>st</sup> three days  
Scarring risk factors  
Pain with procedure  
Who will debride?  
Joints/faces/groins clinic or admitted  
Burns over 10%  
Restore TRIAC q3days  
Access to care? Provider and funds  
Expertise in care  
If does not heal in 2 weeks review for grafting

## Referrals:

RJH Burn Outpatient clinic  
CHS  
Plastics

# Venous

## Risk Factors

- CEAP 3-6
- Genetic
- Injury
- Standing job such as clerk or hairdresser or sitting with legs down
- Age
- History of DVT
- Venous disease over time unmanaged can turn into a secondary lymphedema



## Assess

- Is there mixed arterial disease
- Heart failure/Values
- Age of open area
- Hx of compression management?
- Compliancy for compression
- Is this lymphedema now?
- Shower between dressing changes
- Coban 2 light wraps-who can apply
- If bilateral wrap one leg to start and have nurse review in 48 hours
- Transition into sock once wound closed and edema managed
- Order
- Elevate legs when possible
- Order
- ABI with waveform and toe pressure
- Venous reflux studies

## Referrals:

- Lower Leg Wound Clinic
- Urgent Vascular Limb Clinic
- Vascular Surgeon
- CHS

# Arterial

## Risk Factors

Age  
Smoking  
CAD  
Diabetes  
High cholesterol  
MS

Diabetes can mask Arterial

## Dressings suggestions

Povidone Iodine  
Inadine

## Assess

- Temperature, Pulses, pallor, paresthesia
- Smoking still?
- Open areas manage with dry antimicrobial dressings unless vascularized
- Footwear review
- Pressure points ADL's
- How far can you walk?
- Do you dangle foot or sleep in a chair
- Contributing cardiac conditions CAD or heart failure
- Ensure dry gangrene

## Orders

- Avoid foot elevation especially if wounds
- ABI with toes pressures and waveform
- Venous reflux studies
- CTA with runoff

## Referrals

- LLWC Lower Leg Wound Clinic
- UVLC Urgent Vascular Limb Clinic
- Vascular Surgeon
- CHS

# Diabetic

## Risk Factors

- Loss of sensation
- Job walking/standing on your feet
- Poor footwear
- Uncontrolled sugars
- Loss of vision or unmanaged feet



## Assess

- Footwear
- Lifestyle
- Callous amount and recurrence
- Infection-Pain
- Ability to self care
- Compliancy

## Order

- ABI with toe pressure and waveform
- Prophylactic antibiotics
- Off Loading- air boot or total contact cast
- Bloodwork A1C, c-reactive, x-ray (bone or foreign objects) WBC

## Referrals

- Podiatrist or Foot care nurse to manage callous
- LLWC Lower Leg wound clinic
- CHS

Iodasorb is a great product  
Regular Callous debridement

# Cancers

## Risk Factors

Irregular in shape

Vascular growth or non healing ulceration

Open area that doesn't make sense for pressure

History of skin cancer or long trips to Hawaii

Over exposure to the sun



## Assess

Growth or ulcer rate of change

Conservative management  
with jelonet or non adherent

No V.A.C therapy

## Order

- Punch Biopsy
- Fresh frozen plasma

## Referrals

- Dermatology
- Plastics
- Surgical suture
- CHS

# Fungating wounds

## Treatments

- Radiotherapy
- Chemotherapy (fluorouracil cream if a primary cancer) drip if secondary
- Hormone (breast)
- Electrochemotherapy (stop bleeding)

## Management

- Malodour
- Pain
- Exudate
- Bleeding
- Pruritus





# Dimethyl trisulfide (DMTS)

- The gas (volatiles) emitted from cooked onions, vegetables and aged/fermented cheeses and beer
- Pseudomonas and candida organisms emit the same odour (DMTS)
- Can be treated with metronidazole? (Reduce anaerobes)
- Silver/charcoal dressings to treat odour
- Try Prontosan soaks?
- miltefosine solution?

[https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/article/bbb/73/9/73\\_90229/\\_pdf](https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/article/bbb/73/9/73_90229/_pdf)

# Pressure Injury

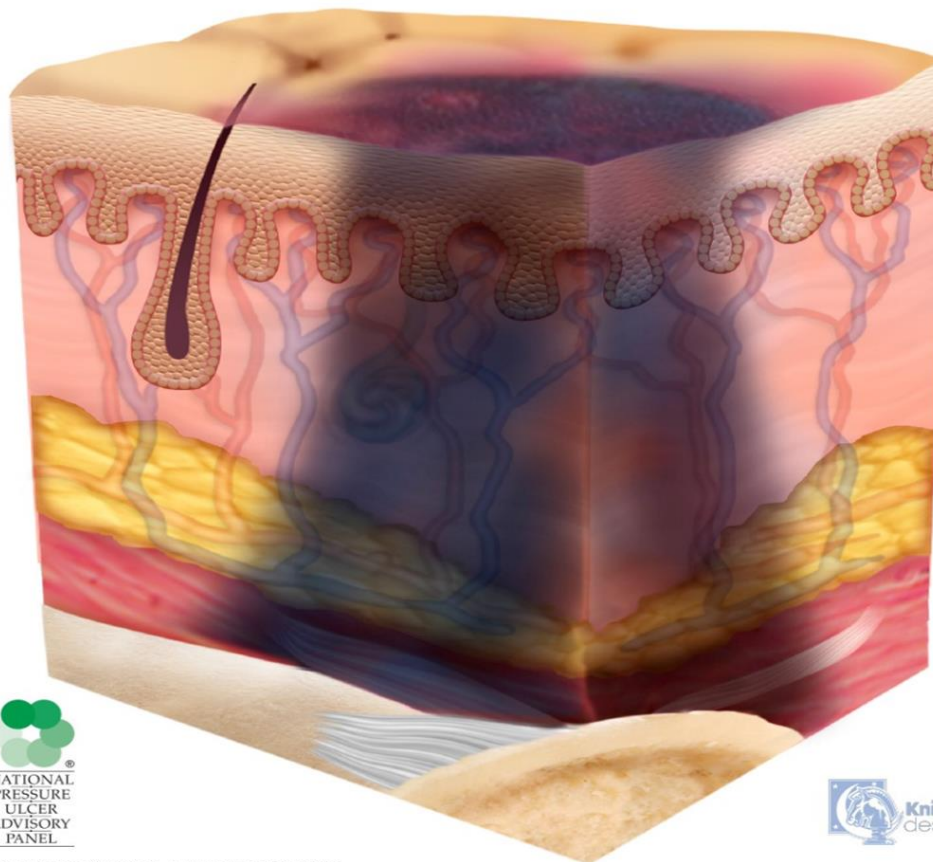
## Pressure Injury

A pressure injury is localized damage to the skin and underlying soft tissue usually over a bony prominence or related to a medical or other device. The injury can present as intact skin or an open ulcer and may be painful. The injury occurs as a result of intense and/or prolonged pressure or pressure in combination with shear. The tolerance of soft tissue for pressure and shear may also be affected by microclimate nutrition, perfusion, comorbidities and condition of the soft tissue. (April 9, 2016)

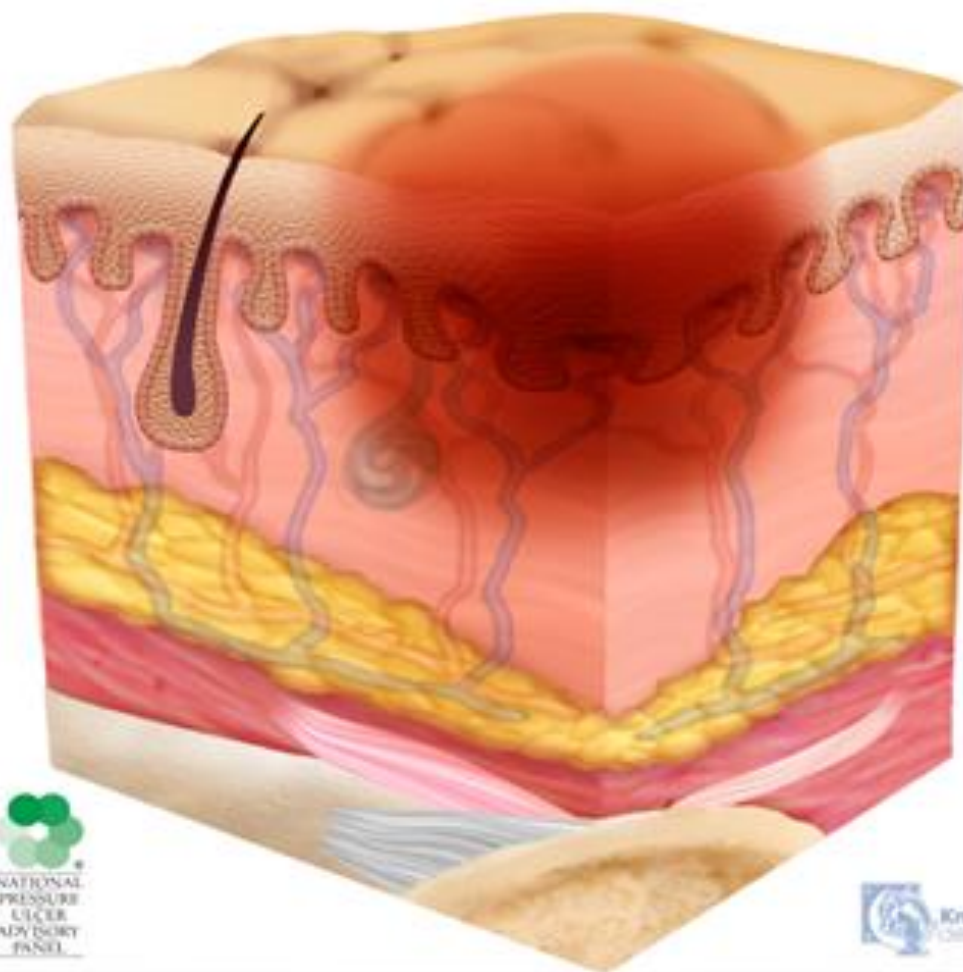
<http://www.npuap.org/resources/educational-and-clinical-resources/npuap-pressure-injury-stages/?gclid=CJy04rPc59ECFQ5EfgodH30CtQ>

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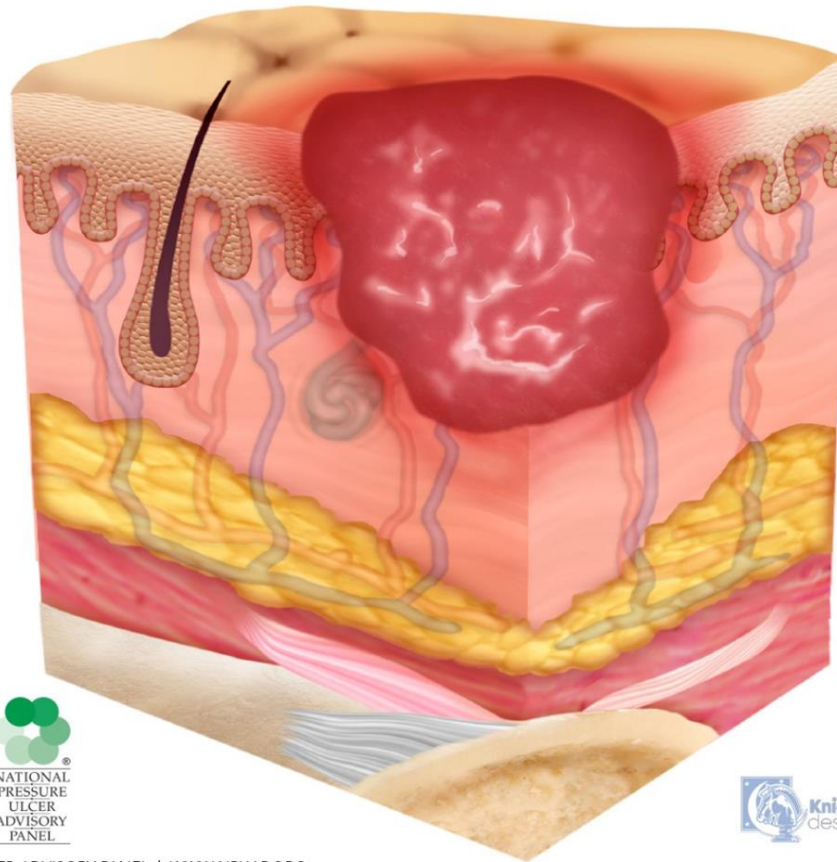
## Deep Tissue Pressure Injury



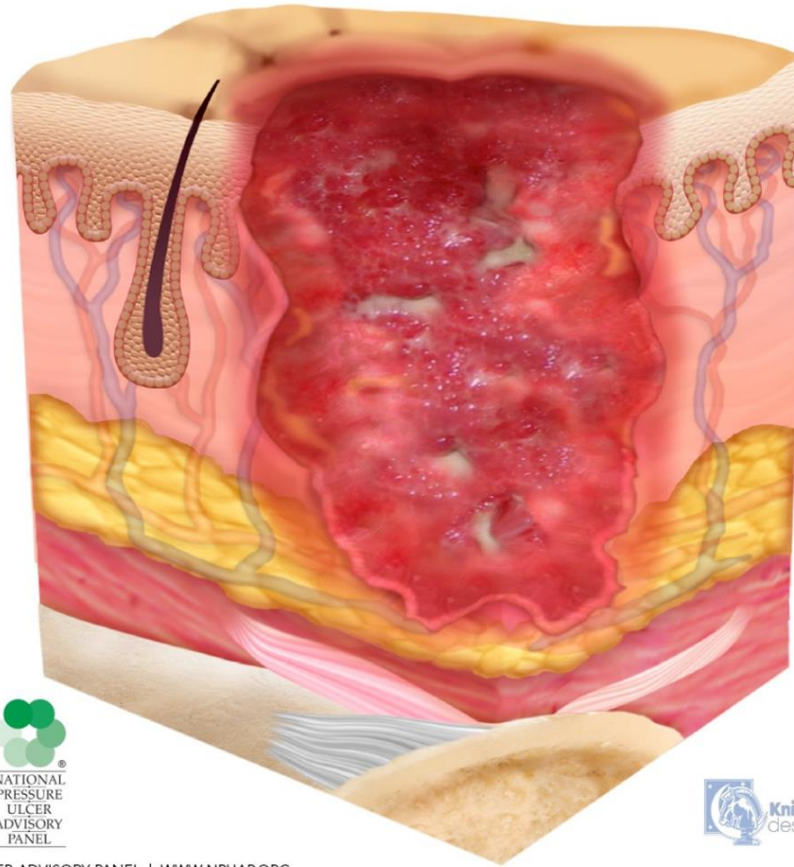
## Stage 1 Pressure Injury - Lightly Pigmented



## Stage 2 Pressure Injury

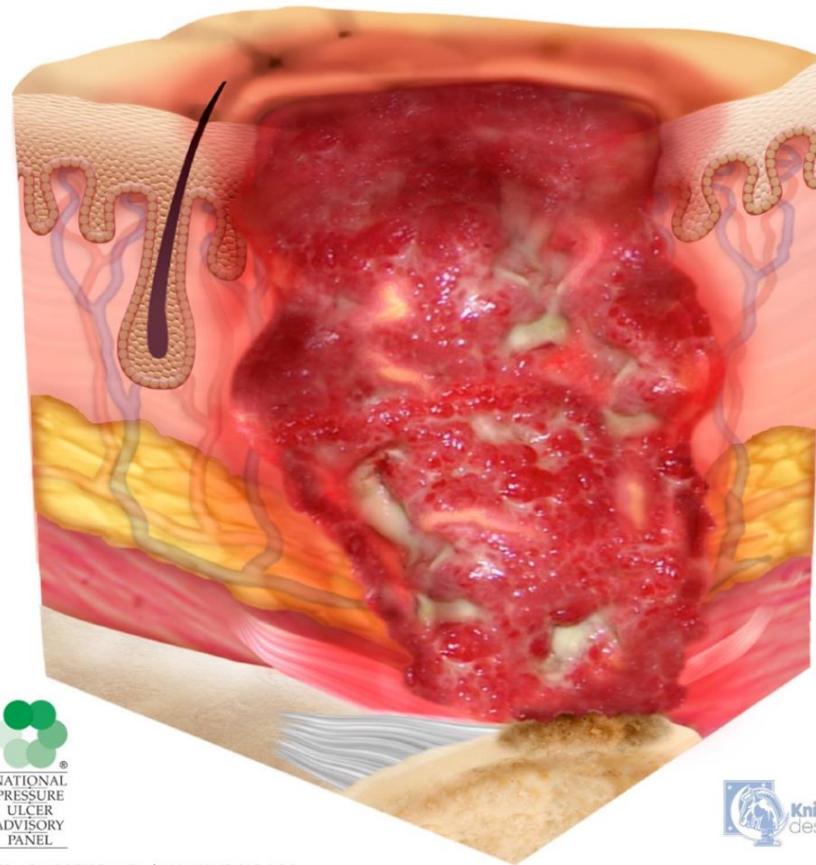


## Stage 3 Pressure Injury

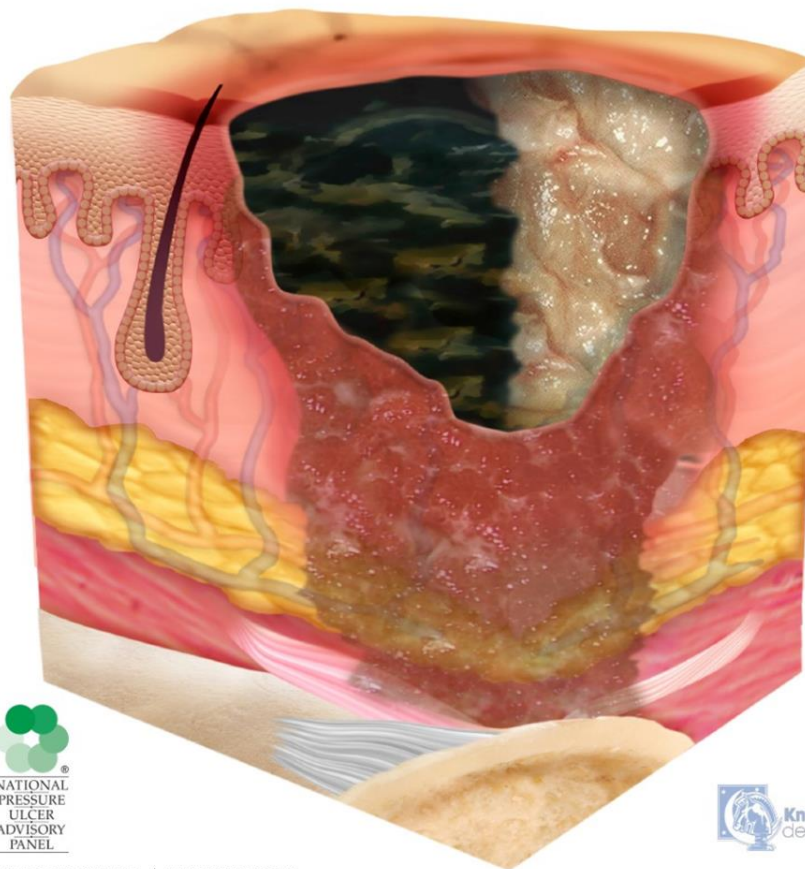




# Stage 4 Pressure Injury



## Unstageable Pressure Injury - Slough and Eschar





# Pressure Injury

## Risk factors

- Shear
- Friction
- Excessive Moisture/continence issues
- Age
- Poor nutrition
- Immobility
- I can go on.....

## Assess

Stage  
Infection or colonization  
Compliance  
Cognition  
Bone?  
Current care

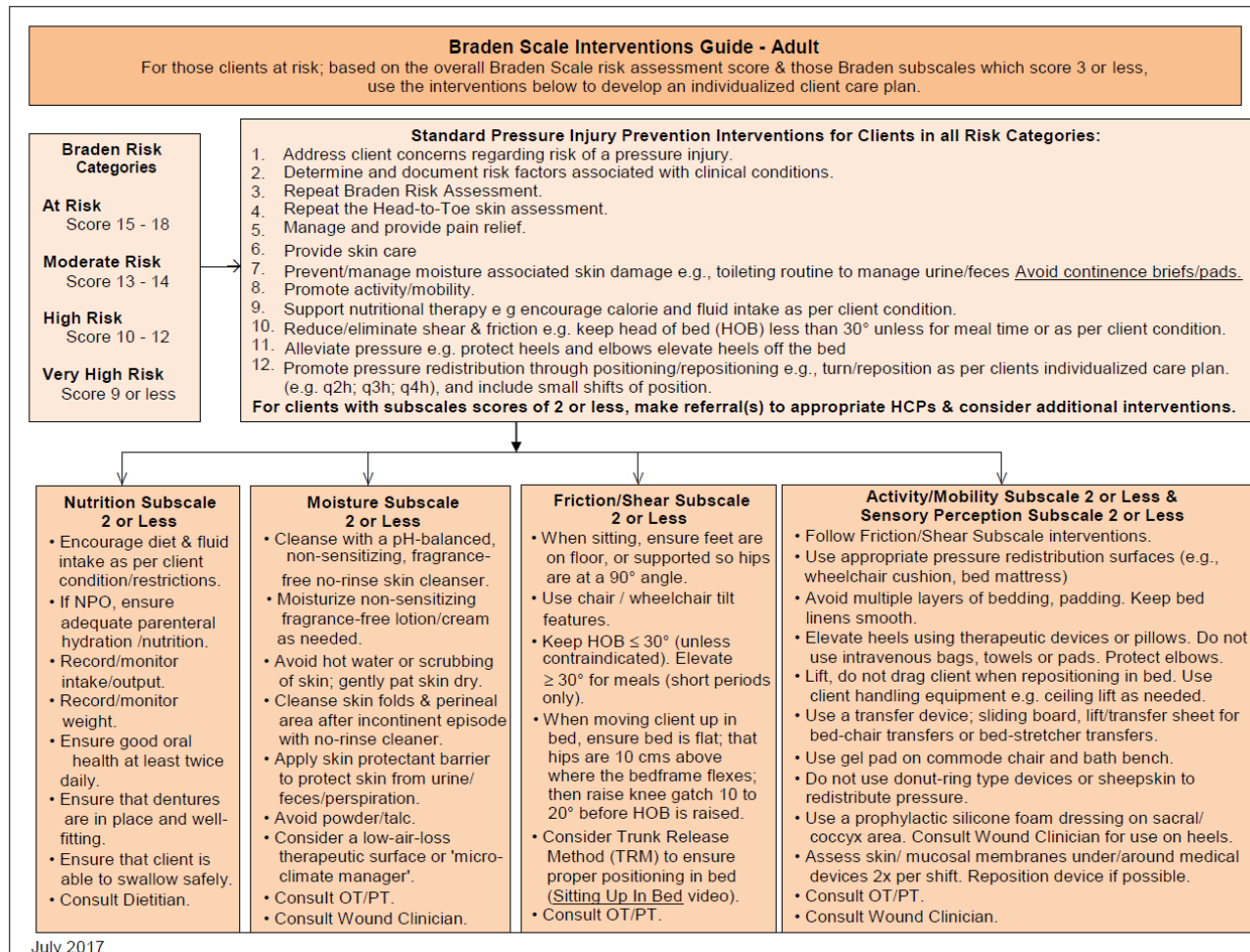
## Order

Braden qshift  
OT for surfaces  
PT to assess transfers  
Turn schedule (client centred)  
Restrictions on activity  
Smoking cessation  
Dietitian to see (bloodwork to assess nutrition)

## Referrals

Pressure Injury Access Clinic  
CHS  
RADD Team  
QA seating review

# Order this on Chart !!



# Updates

- SNAP may be coming to residential care and community
- Marilyn Elder has been coming to help in residential with pressure wounds
- You can order care as per “provincial guidelines”

# Resources/Referenecees

- VIHA Wound and Skin Guidelines

[https://intranet.viha.ca/departments/hcc/standards/Pages/skin\\_and\\_wound\\_care.aspx](https://intranet.viha.ca/departments/hcc/standards/Pages/skin_and_wound_care.aspx)

CLWK website

<https://www.clwk.ca/communities-of-practice/skin-wound-community-of-practice/>

- ET's-out patient clinic at RJH-compression/Stoma
  - Burn and Wound Clinic (patient referral required)
  - Lower Leg Wound Clinic LLWC (patient referral required physiatrist)
- [https://intranet.viha.ca/departments/hcc/Documents/standards%20and%20guidelines/skin\\_and\\_wound\\_care/fluc\\_physician\\_referral\\_form.pdf](https://intranet.viha.ca/departments/hcc/Documents/standards%20and%20guidelines/skin_and_wound_care/fluc_physician_referral_form.pdf)
- Pressure Injury Access Clinic (referral required) Starts March 2017 (plastics and physiatrists)
  - CAWC site

Questions

