







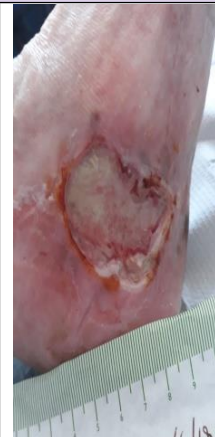


Lower Leg Wound Guidance



To establish the potential wound type for wounds below the knee to the malleolus (ankle).

Lower limb inflammation Red Legs	Lymphoedema (Chronic Oedema)	Lymphorrhoea (wet legs)	Cellulitis	Haematoma	Skin Tear	Leg Ulcer Venous	Leg Ulcer Mixed	Leg Ulcer Arterial
Definitions								
								
<p>Lower Limb Inflammation (Red Legs) can be acute but is more likely to be chronic, often present for weeks and months. Chronic discolouration can also be seen following cellulitis. Always treat the underlying conditions e.g. athletes' foot. (BLS 2020). Refer to the Guidance for identifying lower limb cellulitis or red legs/inflammation</p>	<p>An abnormality of the lymphatic system (either primary Lymphoedema/ Chronic Oedema following damage to the system with more than 3 months of symptoms) causing presence of swelling from the accumulation of excess fluid within the interstitial space. Refer to the Lymphoedema Pathway</p>	<p>Leaking lymphatic fluid (lymph) through the skin surface due to damage of the lymphatic system that looks like beads of fluid which leak from the affected oedematous area, increasing the risk of cellulitis and skin damage. Refer to the Lymphoedema Pathway</p>	<p>An inflammatory skin condition caused by acute infection of the skin, characterised by a superficial, diffuse, spreading skin infection without underlying collection of pus. Bilateral leg cellulitis is very rare. (Atkins 2016) (NICE 2015). Guidance for identifying lower limb cellulitis or red legs/inflammation</p>	<p>A bruise or collection of blood in the tissues. They appear as a dark red/black collection of blood standing proud of the skin. (Beldon 2011). (Collins et al, 2002). Refer to the Pathway for a Limb Haematoma</p>	<p>A skin tear is a traumatic wound caused by mechanical forces, including the removal of adhesives. Severity may vary by depth (not extending through the subcutaneous layer). (Le Blanc K et al 2018). Refer to the Skin Tear Pathway</p>	<p>A break in the skin that has been present for more than 14 days, in the presence of Venous Disease. (NICE 2020). Refer to the Leg Ulcer Pathway</p>	<p>A break in the skin that has been present for more than 14 days, in the presence of Venous Disease and Peripheral Arterial Disease. (Harding 2015). Refer to the Leg Ulcer Pathway</p>	<p>A break in the skin that has been present for more than 14 days, as a result of reduced arterial blood flow, in the presence of Peripheral Arterial Disease. (Moffatt 2001). Refer to the Leg Ulcer Pathway</p>
						<p>If there is a break in the skin that has been present for more than 14 days, with no diagnosis of Venous Disease or Peripheral Arterial Disease is defined as a Leg Ulcer – Unknown Aetiology</p>		

If the named product on this pathway is not available a temporary second line product is available to use. This can be found within the main text of the Doncaster Wide Wound Care Formulary Document.