

# Pathway for Lower Limb Lymphoedema (including Lymphorrhea - weeping/wet leg)

Lymphoedema (pronounced Lim-fo-dee-ma) is a chronic inflammatory condition in which a part of the lymphatic drainage system fails to work effectively.

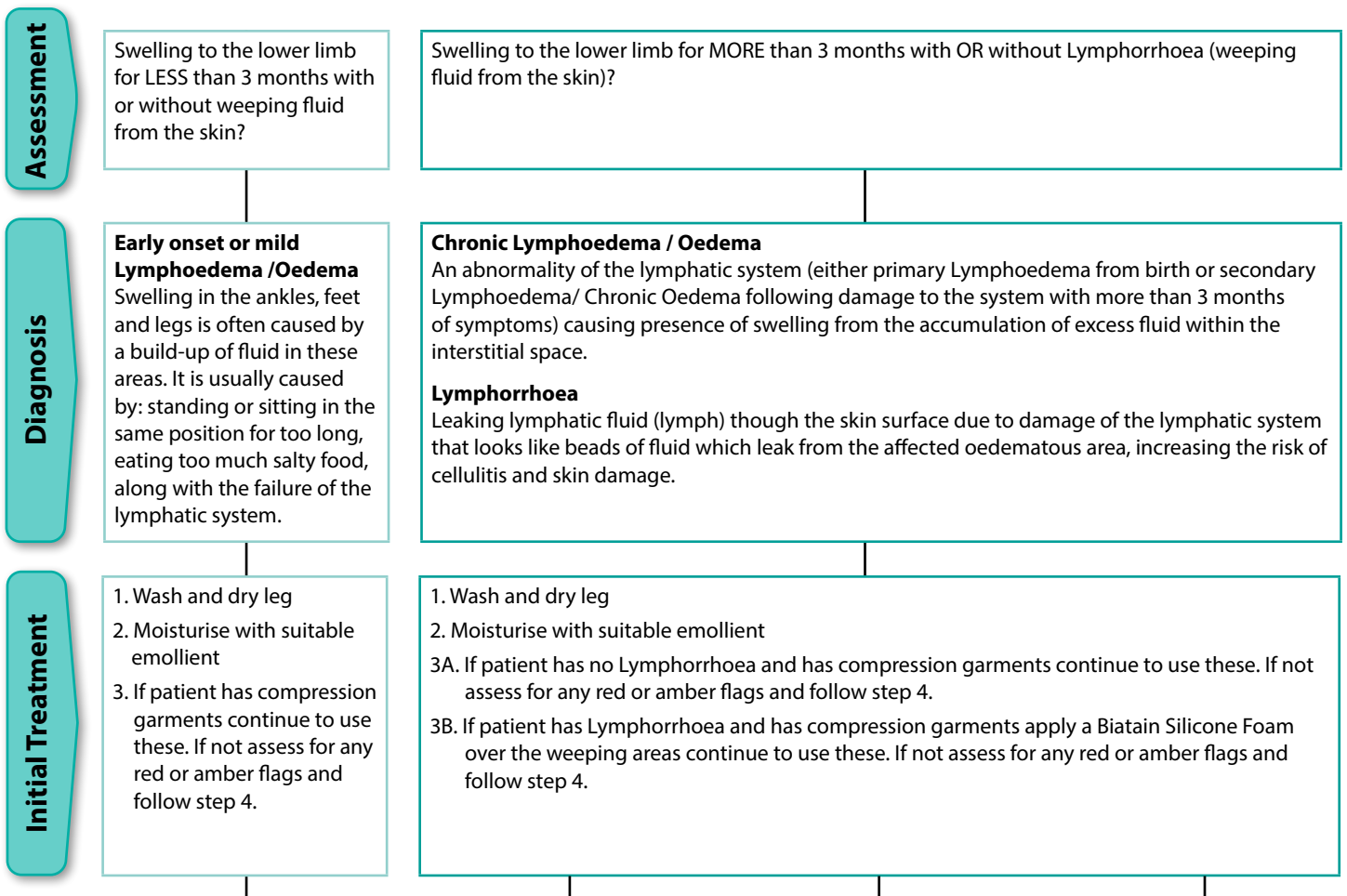
Lymphoedema affects all ages. The lymphatic system helps protect us from infection and disease. It is a crucial part of the body's immune system. It keeps our body fluids in balance and absorbs and transports helpful vitamins and hormones.

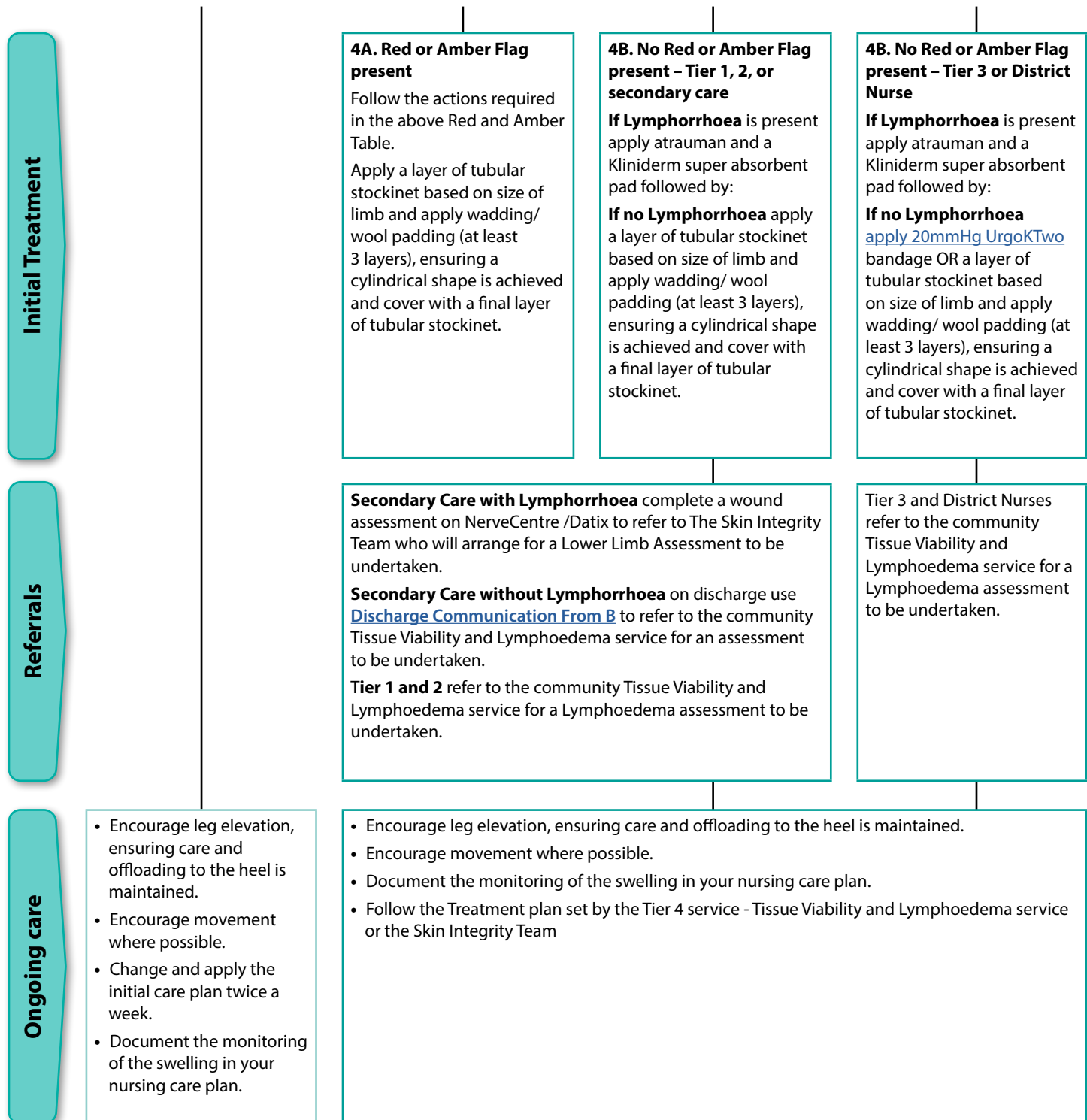
When the lymphatic system fails, fluid and some harmful substances collect in the affected areas. We see swelling which most commonly affects one or more limbs.



Red Flags	Action required
<b>Does the limb have clinical signs of unilateral cellulitis?</b> <i>Rapid onset red/spreading erythema, Hot/painful oedematous skin, Blisters, Patient systemically unwell (flu-like symptoms).</i>	Follow the <a href="#">Cellulitis pathways</a> .
<b>Suspected acute deep vein thrombosis.</b>	<b>Secondary care:</b> Follow the Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) policy <b>Primary care:</b> Refer urgently to the Ambulatory Care Unit
<b>Clinical evidence of acute limb ischaemia (acute pain, pallor, pulseless, perishingly cold, paraesthesia / acute sensory change, paralysis / acute motor dysfunction &lt;2weeks.)</b>	<b>In addition to the above advice:</b> Obtain a <a href="#">wound swab</a> and arrange for antibiotics to be commenced. Dress with an antimicrobial dressing, <a href="#">Kliniderm absorbent pad</a> (if required) and <a href="#">safe soft bandaging</a> .
<b>Suspected Skin Cancer</b>	Refer to the Dermatology Department as per the 2 week wait protocol, either via the GP or <a href="mailto:dbth.dermatologyteam@nhs.net">dbth.dermatologyteam@nhs.net</a>

If there is swelling to the lower limb with or without weeping fluid from the skin WITH an Ulcer follow the Leg Ulcer Pathway





**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**

Lymphoedema Network Wales (2022) The chronic oedema wet leg pathway. Elwell, R (2024) Lower Leg Inflammatory Pathway. Moffat et al (2023) What is Lymphoedema. Lymphoedema Framework (2006) Best Practice for the Management of Lymphoedema. International consensus. London