



Lower Limb Assessment and Compression Pathway Booklet

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Introduction

The aim of this booklet is to support health care practitioners in selecting the appropriate compression products when managing patients with leg conditions.

Compression therapy is used to manage venous insufficiency and chronic oedema:

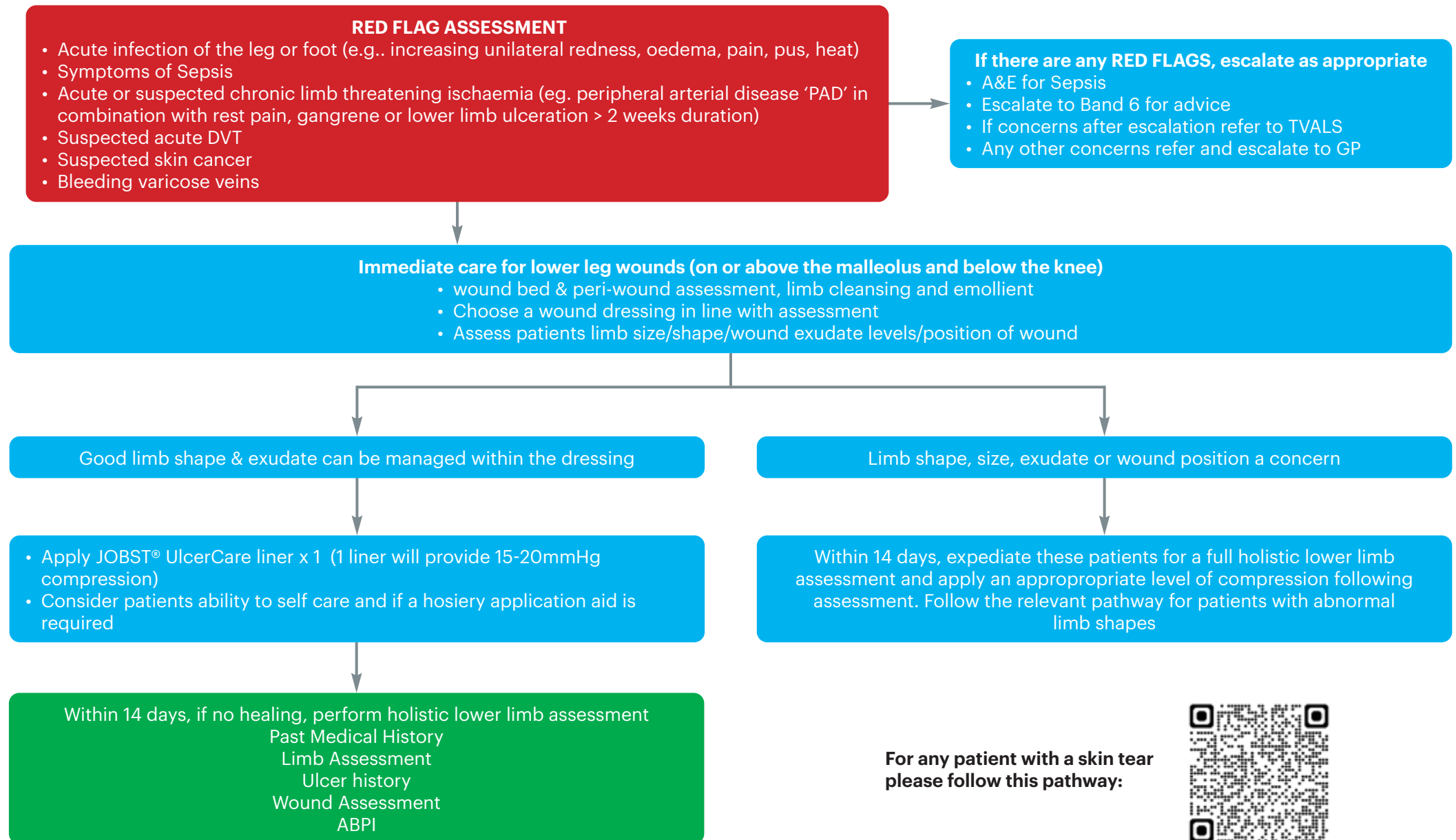
- During initial treatment when providing immediate and necessary care
- For the treatment of venous ulcers to reduce venous hypertension
- For the management of chronic oedema to reduce leg swelling and prevent 'leaky legs' and to prevent complications of infection
- In the maintenance and prevention of venous leg ulcers and chronic oedema

The booklet aids product selection for **Immediate Care, Active Care** – either full or reduced levels of compression options depending on the outcome of the Lower Limb Assessment & ABPI, along with **Maintenance** and **Prevention**.

Product selection is guided in the first instance by assessment of the patient's limb shape, followed by the level of oedema and exudate levels. Each pathway guides the health care practitioner to the appropriate compression product for their patient's need.

If garments/compression on formulary are found not to be suitable please refer patient to TVALs.

Initial Treatment – Immediate and Necessary Care Pathway



Initial Treatment - Immediate and Necessary Care

Product Information

Examination	Compression	Product Information	Product Resources
Good limb shape, exudate can be managed with a dressing choice in line with assessment	JOBST® UlcerCare liners (Essity)	7 sizes Closed toe White Soft touch - Silk liner 2 measurements required 15-20mmHg compression per liner 3 liners in a pack Machine washable at 60 degrees - no fabric softener 6 months guarantee	Click here for: Measuring form: JOBST UlcerCare Kit Measuring video: JOBST UlcerCare Kit

Lower Limb Assessment Pathway (Tier 3/4 and District Nurses)

Aim

Assessment of peripheral perfusion is a fundamental requirement for lower limb management (Vowden and Vowden, 2001). Compression should be first-line treatment to optimise healing and can benefit patients in both acute and chronic wound management (Wounds UK, 2015). Compression treatment should be started as early as possible following a Lower Limb Assessment, including an Ankle Brachial Pressure Index (ABPI) reading.

Assess for any Red Flags

Red Flags	Emergency Actions Required
Leg ulcer with systemic/ severe infection with or without sepsis.	Obtain a wound swab and arrange for antibiotics to be commenced. Dress with UrgoClean Ag. and a Super Absorbent pad if required and follow the Pathway for Safe Soft Lower Leg Bandaging. Secondary Care: Refer urgently to the Vascular Team via switchboard. Practice Nurses: Transfer urgently to the Emergency Department OR Refer urgently to the Emergency Surgical Assessment Centre (ESAC). District Nurses: Transfer urgently to the Emergency Department OR Contact TVALS or GP to arrange admission to ESAC.
Clinical evidence of acute limb ischaemia	Obtain a wound swab and arrange for antibiotics to be commenced. Dress with Acticoat flex 3, and a Super Absorbent pad if required and follow the Pathway for Safe Soft Lower Leg Bandaging. Secondary Care: Refer urgently to the Vascular Team via switchboard. Practice Nurses: Transfer urgently to the Emergency Department OR Refer urgently to the Emergency Surgical Assessment Centre (ESAC). District Nurses: Transfer urgently to the Emergency Department OR Contact TVALS or GP to arrange admission to ESAC.
Suspected acute deep vein thrombosis	Secondary Care: Follow the Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) – Prevention and Treatment of VTE in Patients admitted to hospital. Practice/District Nurses: Refer urgently to the Ambulatory Care Unit.
Suspected Skin Cancer	Refer to the Dermatology Department as per the 2 week wait protocol, either via the GP or dbth.dermatologyteam@nhs.net

Patient and limb Assessment

If no red flags present follow the below steps:

Undertake a holistic patient assessment and a lower limb assessment as per the Lower Limb Assessment Pathways (Appendix 1) with and ABPI or TBPI as required.

NB: An ABPI should never be used in isolation and should always be supported by holistic assessment and Lower Limb Assessment.

Preparation, wound assessment and limb shape

Undertake wound bed preparation. Follow the **Wound Bed Preparation Pathway** to cleanse and mechanically debride the wound bed

Undertake a wound assessment using T.I.M.E.S (including clinical photography where applicable) and document accordingly and identify the most appropriate limb shape as below:

Good limb shape
Mild/moderate oedema

Abnormal limb shape
Moderate oedema

Abnormal limb shape
Severe oedema

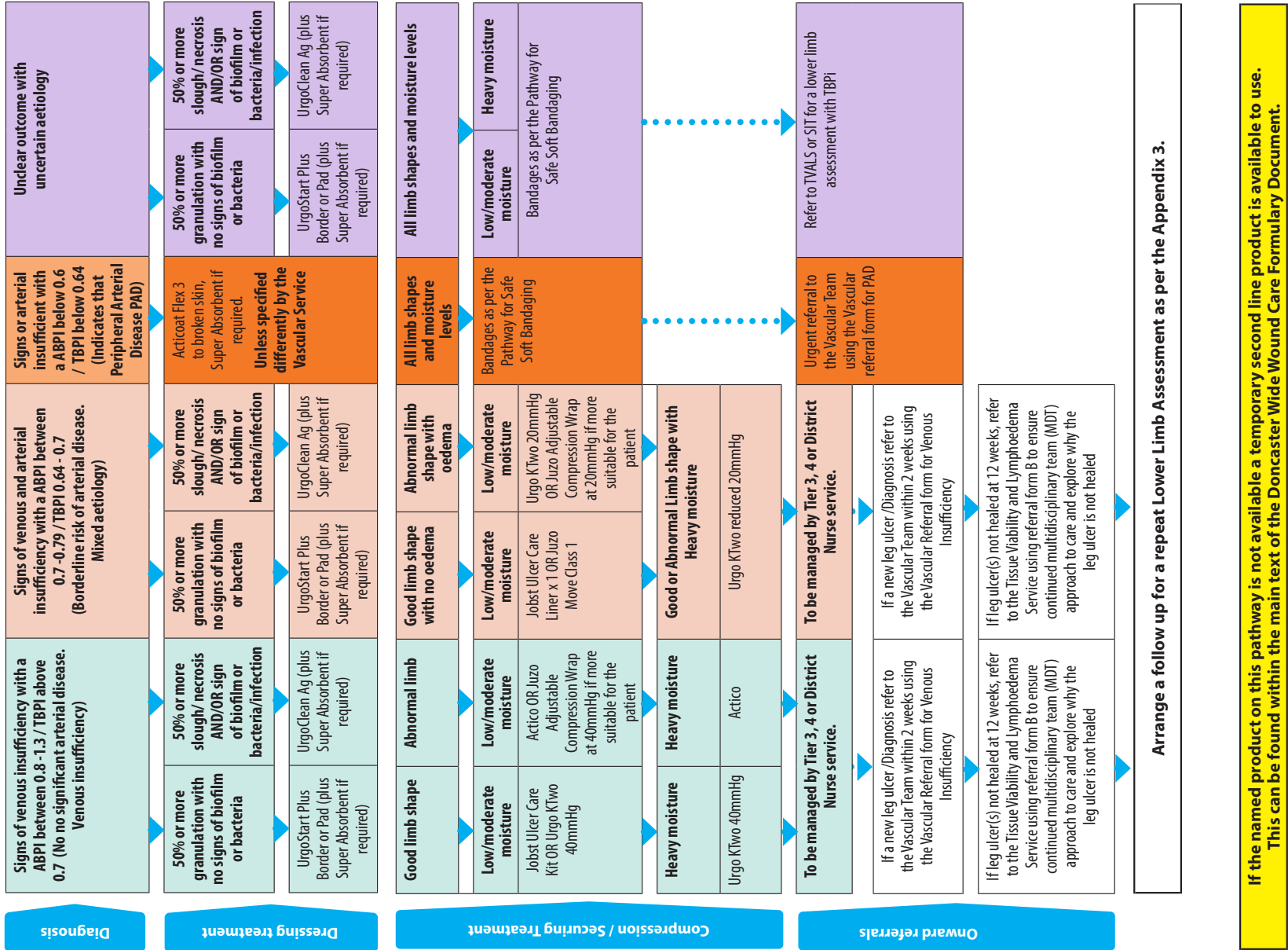
Abnormal limb shape
Severe oedema with skin folds

Lower Limb Assessment Pathway (Tier 3/4 and District Nurses)

Please click on this link to access:
<https://www.dbth.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Lower-Limb-Assessment-Pathway-Tier-3-4-and-District-Nurses-2025-2028.pdf>



Lower Limb Assessment Pathway (Tier 3/4 and District Nurses)



Reference: National Wound Care Strategy Programme 2020, Lower Limb Recommendations for Clinical Care.
Developed by: Tissue Viability and Lymphoedema Service, The Skin Integrity Team, Vascular Nurse Specialist 2021. Updated October 2025. For Review July 2028

Explanation and examples of patients limb shapes and levels of oedema supporting compression choices

This booklet has been designed to support nurses to choose the correct compression based on the shape of the patient's limbs. Compression works differently for good and abnormal limb shapes, and the correct compression system must be chosen based on the patient's presentation and assessment.

Below are some examples of patients' limb shapes. Please remember that not all patients will present like this.

Good limb shape
Mild/moderate oedema



Abnormal limb shape
Moderate oedema



Abnormal limb shape
Severe oedema



Abnormal limb shape
Severe oedema with skin folds



Leg Ulcer Pathway

Please click on this link to access:
<https://www.dbth.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Leg-Ulcer-Pathway-2025-2028.pdf>

Leg Ulcer Pathways

Definition: A Leg Ulcer is defined as skin loss that originates between the knee and malleolus (ankle) that has been present for more than 2 weeks

Assess for any Red Flags		Emergency Actions Required
Red Flags		
Leg ulcer with systemic/ severe infection with or without sepsis.		Obtain a wound swab and arrange for antibiotics to be commenced. Dress with UrgoClean Ag, and a Super Absorbent pad if required and follow the Pathway for Safe Soft Lower Leg Bandaging. Secondary Care: Refer urgently to the Vascular Team via switchboard. Practice Nurses: Transfer urgently to the Emergency Department OR Refer urgently to the Emergency Surgical Assessment Centre (ESAC). District Nurses: Transfer urgently to the Emergency Department OR Contact TVALS or GP to arrange admission to ESAC.
Clinical evidence of acute limb ischaemia		Obtain a wound swab and arrange for antibiotics to be commenced. Dress with Acticoat flex 3, and a Super Absorbent pad if required and follow the Pathway for Safe Soft Lower Leg Bandaging. Secondary Care: Refer urgently to the Vascular Team via switchboard. Practice Nurses: Transfer urgently to the Emergency Department OR Refer urgently to the Emergency Surgical Assessment Centre (ESAC). District Nurses: Transfer urgently to the Emergency Department OR Contact TVALS or GP to arrange admission to ESAC.
Suspected acute deep vein thrombosis		Secondary Care: Follow the Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) – Prevention and Treatment of VTE in Patients admitted to hospital. Practice/District Nurses: Refer urgently to the Ambulatory Care Unit.
Suspected Skin Cancer		Refer to the Dermatology Department as per the 2 week wait protocol, either via the GP or dbth.dermatologyteam@nhs.net
Bleeding varicose veins		Transfer to the Emergency Department



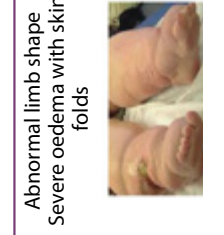
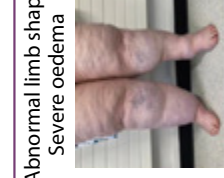
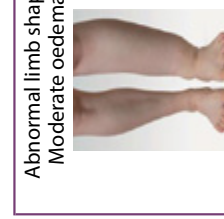
Assess for any Amber Flags		Urgent action Required
Amber Flags		
Do you suspect poor arterial blood supply because the patient has either: Constant pain in the foot (typically relieved by dependence and worse at night) OR A non-healing wound of more than 2 weeks duration and / or gangrene on the foot.		Complete a Vascular referral form for PAD Send to: dbth.vascular-admin@nhs.net
Does the patient have any risk factors or visual signs for venous disease on the lower limb including with either of these: Ulceration that Static or deteriorating despite optimum compression therapy Or Acute venous bleeding from the leg requiring first aid treatment.		Complete a Vascular referral form for Venous Insufficiency Send to: dbth.vascular-admin@nhs.net



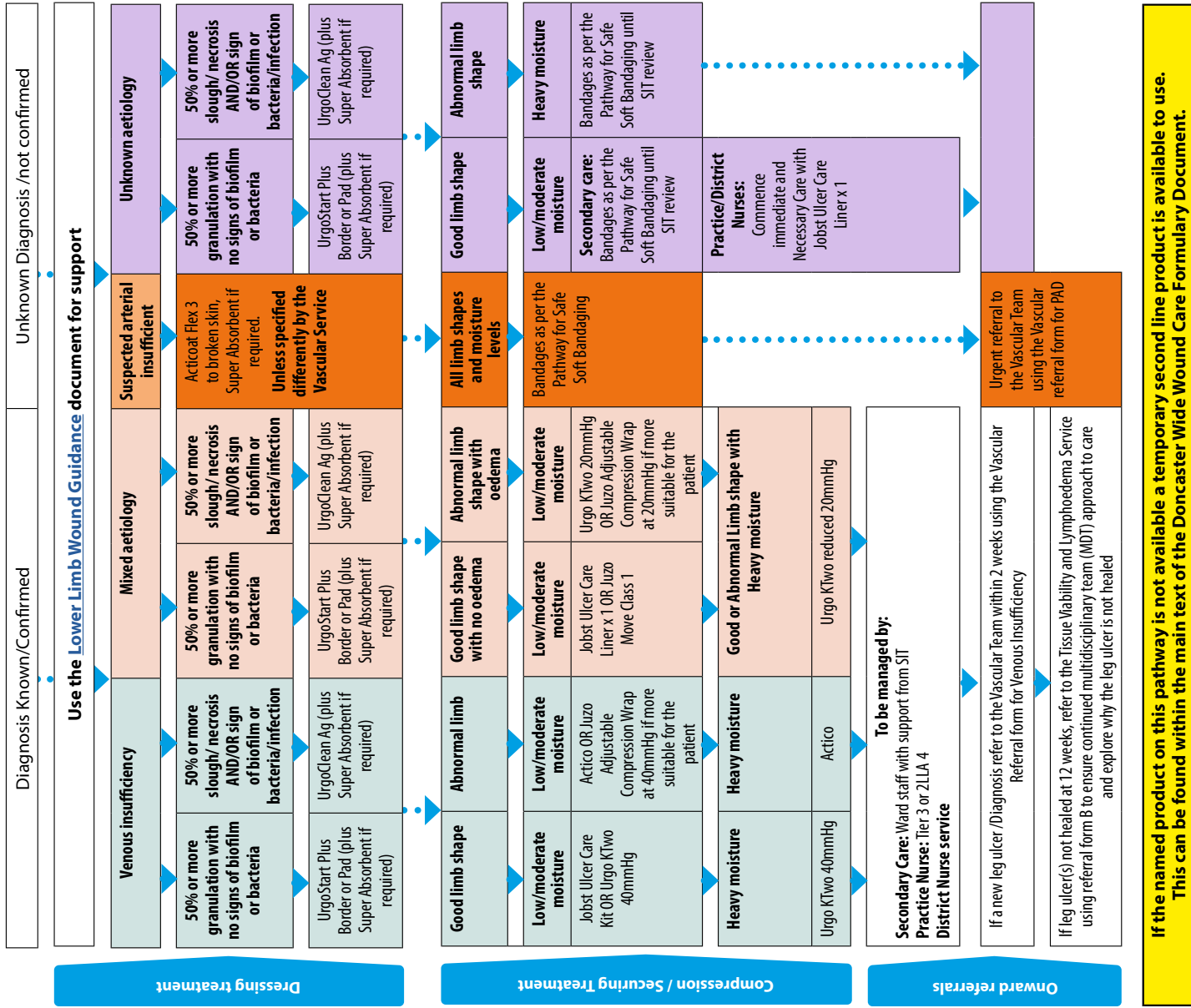
Undertake wound bed preparation. Follow the [Wound Bed Preparation Pathway](#) to cleanse and mechanically debride the wound bed



Undertake a wound assessment using T.I.M.E.S (including clinical photography where applicable) and document accordingly and identify the most appropriate limb shape as below:

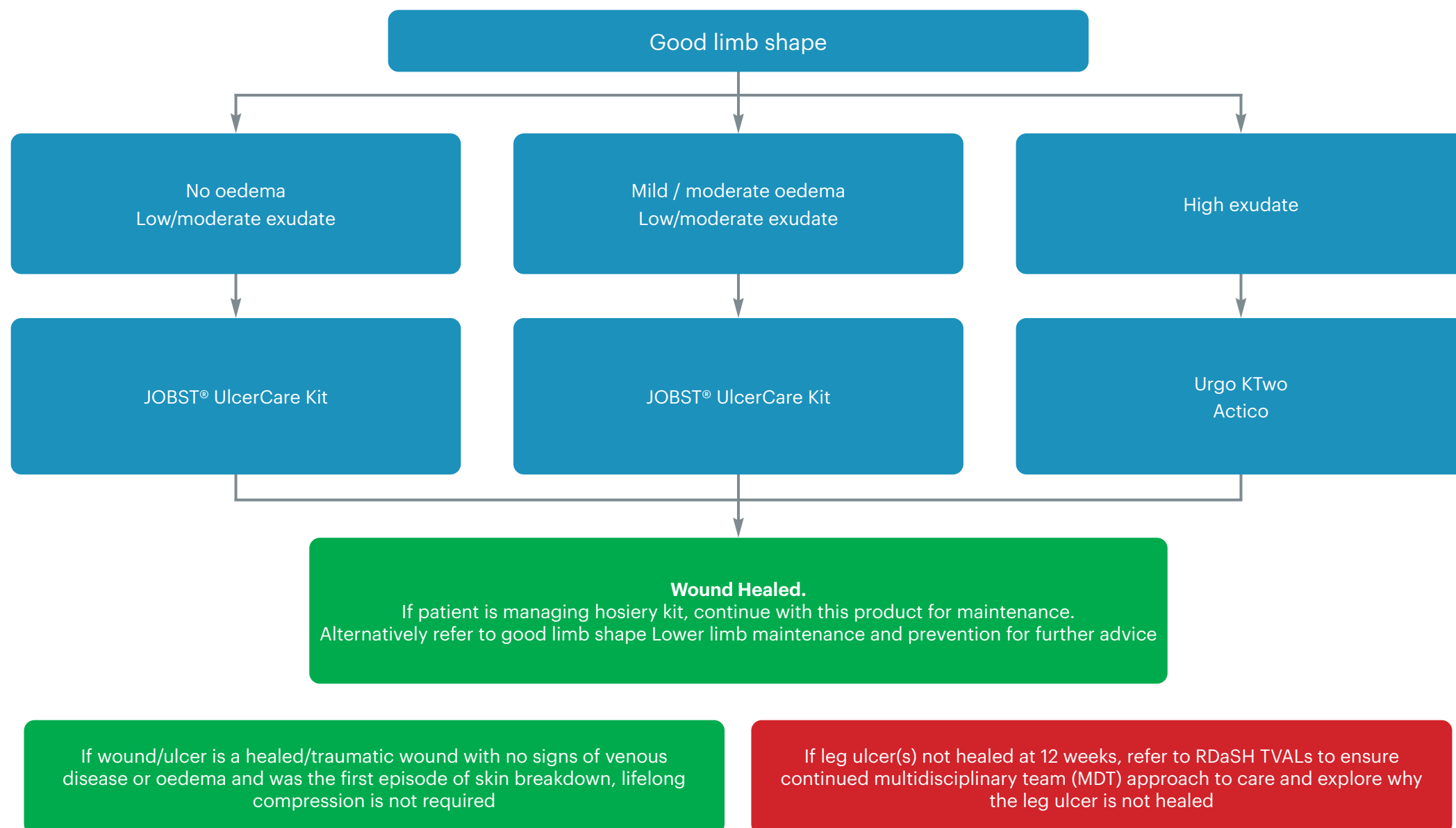


Leg Ulcer Pathway



Reference: National Wound Care Strategy Programme 2020, Lower Limb Recommendations for Clinical Care.
Developed by: Tissue Viability and Lymphoedema Service, The Skin Integrity Team, Vascular Nurse Specialist 2021. Updated October 2025. For Review July 2028

Active Treatment - Good Limb Shape Strong Compression (40mmHg)

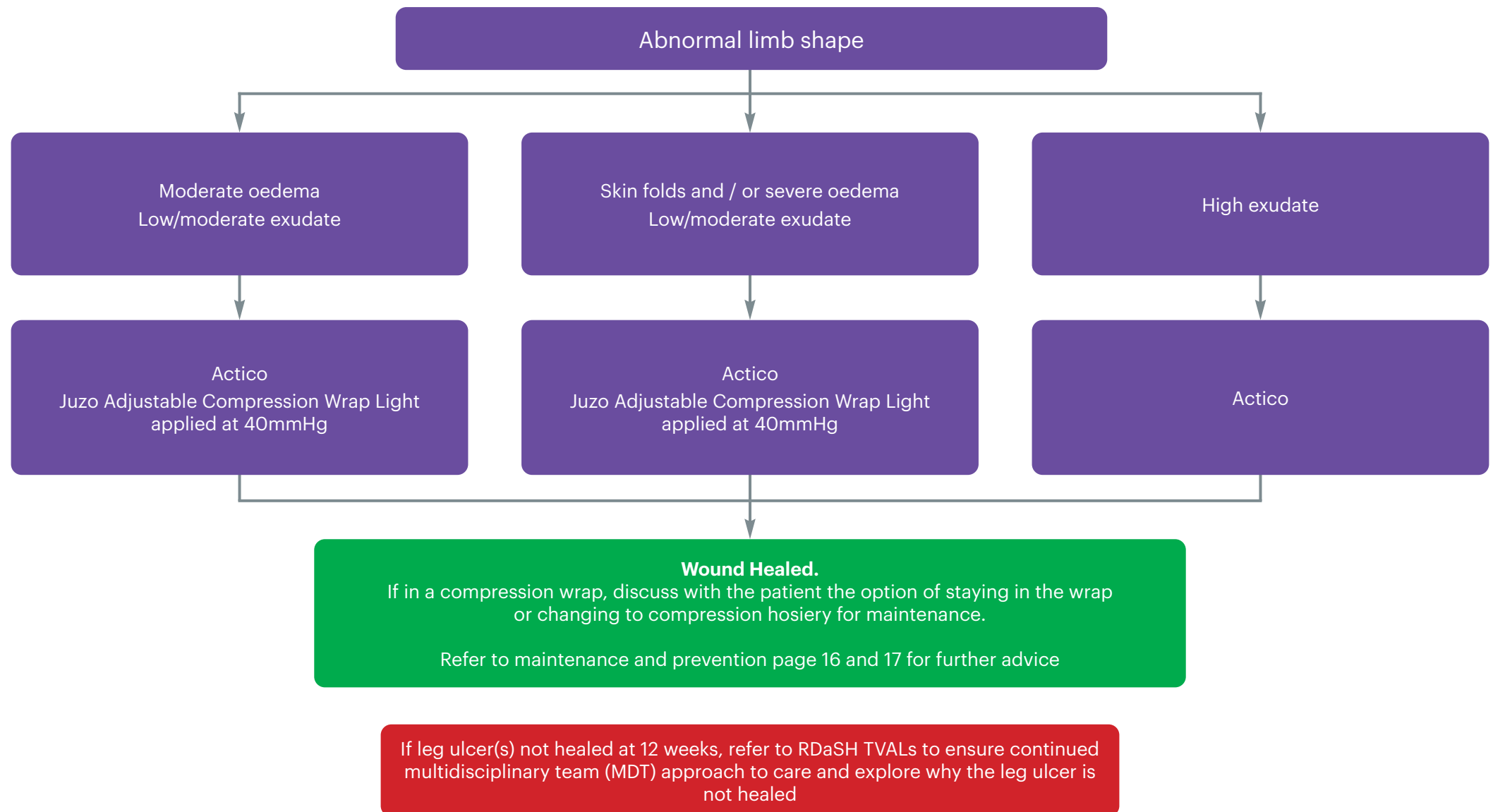


Good Limb Shape – Strong Compression (40mmHg)

Product Information

Examination		Compression	Product Information	Product Resources
Good Limb Shape	No Oedema	JOBST® UlcerCare kit (Essity)	Available in 7 sizes Black or beige 6 months guarantee Zippered option available Machine washable at 40 degrees (outer stocking) and 60 degrees (liner) - NO FABRIC SOFTENER	Click here for: Measuring form: JOBST UlcerCare Kit Measuring video: JOBST UlcerCare Kit
	Mild / Moderate Oedema	JOBST® UlcerCare kit (Essity)	2 measurements required Each pack comes with 2 liners and a top stocking	
	High Exudate	Actico (L&R)	10cm x 6m Not suitable if latex intolerance expected Single use Not suitable for ankle circumference of less than 18cm unless padding is used to increase it to > 18cm	Click here for: Application of using 10cm wide Actico Application of 8cm, 10cm and 12cm above knee
		UrgoKTwo multi-layer compression bandage kit (Urgo Medical)	Available in 2 sizes Ankle circumference: 18cm-25cm 25cm-32cm Also available in latex free Single use	Click here for: Urgo KTwo - Application/Instructions Common mistakes to avoid with Urgo KTwo Urgo KTwo leg reshaping Urgo KTwo application video

Active Treatment - Abnormal Limb Shape Strong Compression (40mmHg)

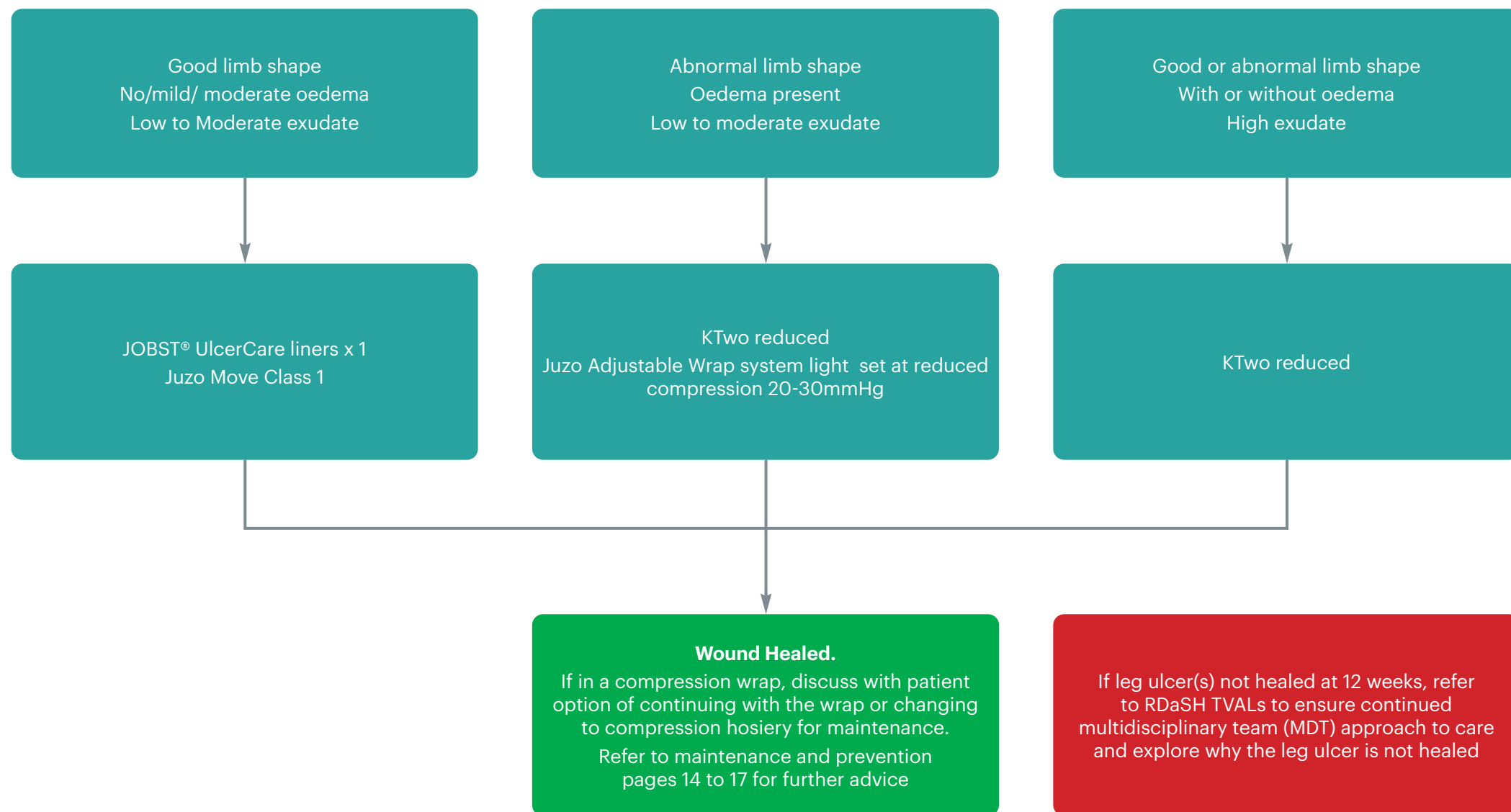


Abnormal Limb Shape – Strong Compression (40mmHg)

Product Information

Examination		Compression	Product Information	Product Resources
Abnormal Limb Shape	Moderate Oedema	Actico (L&R)	10cm x 6m Not suitable if latex intolerance expected Single use Not suitable for ankle circumference of less than 18cm unless padding is used to increase it to > 18cm	Click here for: Application of using 10cm wide Actico Application of 8cm, 10cm and 12cm above knee
		Juzo Adjustable Compression Wrap System Light (Juzo)	5 Sizes: XS, S, M, L, XL 2 Leg Lengths Available in foot, calf, knee and thigh piece Up to 52cm ankle, 70cm calf and 100cm thigh Black and Beige Latex free Comes with 1 free liner, additional liner packs available Machine washable 30 degrees - no fabric softener. 6 months guarantee Extender straps available on FP10 (Juzo dual stretch liner available as alternative to foot piece (see TV advised products)	Click here for: Measuring form: Juzo Adjustable Compression Wrap System Light Application video: https://tinyurl.com/Juzo-ACS-application-video Self Care: https://juzomtmforms.juzocare.co.uk/home#SelfCare
	Skin Folds and/or Severe Oedema	Actico (L&R)	See above	See above
		Juzo Adjustable Compression Wrap System Light (Juzo)	See above	See above
	Moderate to High Exudate	Actico (L&R)	See above	See above

Active Treatment - Reduced Compression up to 20mmHg



Active Treatment Management – Reduced Compression

Product Information

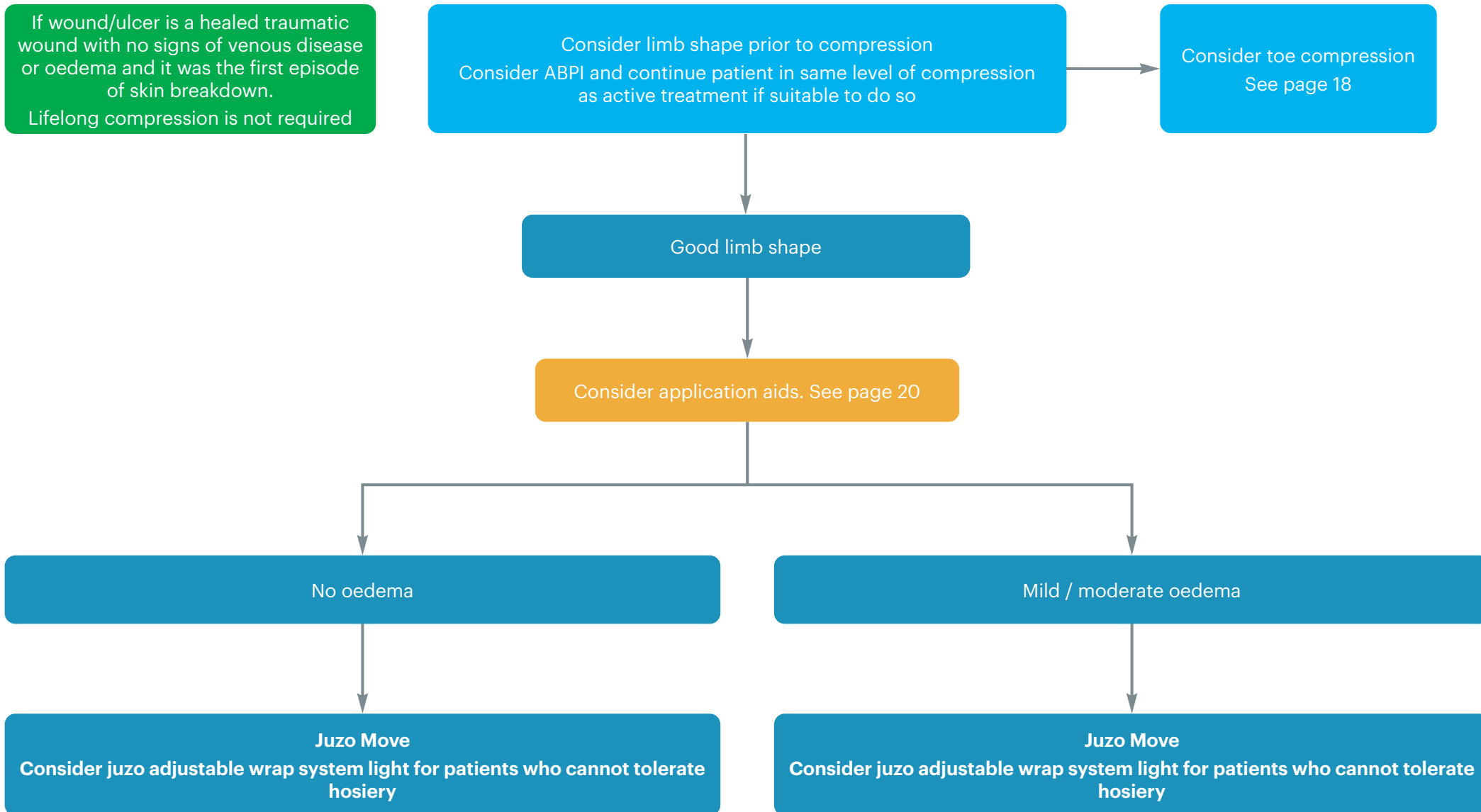
Examination		Compression	Product Information	Product Resources
Reduced Compression	Good limb shape No/mild/ moderate oedema Low to moderate exudate	JOBST UlcerCare liners (Essity)	7 sizes Closed toe White Soft touch - Silk liner. 3 liners in a pack 2 measurements required 15-20mmHg compression per liner Machine washable at 60 degrees - no fabric softener 6 months guarantee	Click here for: Measuring form: JOBST UlcerCare Kit Measuring video: JOBST UlcerCare Kit
		Juzo Move RAL Standard Hosiery (Juzo)	6 sizes: XS,S,M,L,XL,XXL 2 Leg Lengths Class 1 ONLY Class 1 = 18-21mmHg Machine washable and dryable Black Pepper and Almond available Open and Closed Toe 6 months guarantee Latex free	Click here for: Measuring form: Juzo Move Application video: Juzo Move Self Care: https://juzomtmforms.juzocare.co.uk/home#SelfCare

Active Treatment Management – Reduced Compression (continued)

Product Information

Examination		Compression	Product Information	Product Resources
Reduced Compression	Abnormal limb shape, oedema present, low to moderate exudate	Juzo Adjustable Compression Wrap System Light (Juzo)	5 Sizes: XS, S, M, L, XL. 2 Leg Lengths Available in foot, calf, knee and thigh piece Up to 52cm ankle, 70cm calf and 100cm thigh Black and Beige Latex free Comes with 1 free liner, additional liner packs available Machine washable at 30 degrees - no fabric softener: 6 months guarantee Extender straps available on FP10 (Juzo dual stretch liner available as alternative to foot piece (see TV advised products))	Click here for: Measuring form: Juzo Adjustable Compression Wrap System Light Application video: Juzo Adjustable Compression Wrap System Light Self Care: https://juzomtmforms.juzocare.co.uk/home#SelfCare
		Urgo KTwo Reduced 20mmHg Multi-layer compression bandage kit (Urgo Medical)	Available in 2 sizes: Ankle circumference: 18cm-25cm 25cm-32cm Also available latex free	Urgo KTwo Reduced - Application/Instructions Common mistakes to avoid with Urgo KTwo Urgo KTwo leg reshaping Urgo KTwo application video
	Good or abnormal limb shape with or without oedema, high exudate	Urgo KTwo Reduced 20mmHg Multi-layer compression bandage kit (Urgo Medical)	See information above	For product resources see links above

Maintenance and Prevention - Good Limb Shape

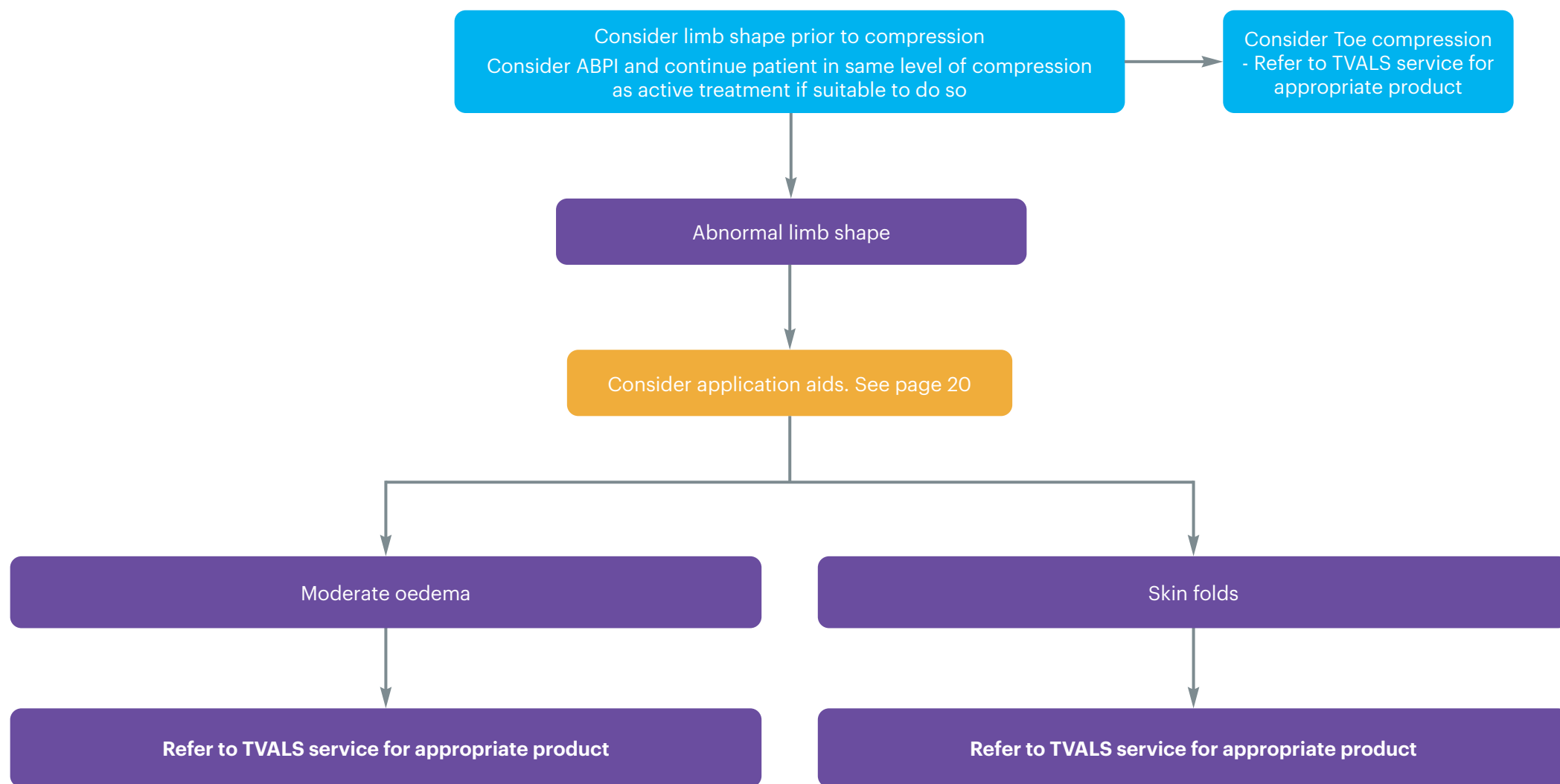


Good Limb Shape with No or Mild/Moderate Oedema

Maintenance & Prevention - Circular-Knit Compression Hosiery

Examination	Compression	Product Information	Product Resources
Good Limb Shape	Juzo Move RAL Standard Hosiery - Mild to Moderate Oedema (Juzo)	6 sizes: XS,S,M,L,XL.XXL 2 Leg Lengths 3 Compression Classes Class 1 = 18-21mmHg Class 2 = 21 to 32mmHg Machine washable and dryable Black Pepper and Almond available Open and Closed Toe 6 months guarantee Latex free	Click here for: Measuring form: Juzo Move Application video: Juzo Move Self Care: https://juzomtmforms.juzocare.co.uk/home#SelfCare
	Juzo Adjustable Compression Wrap System Light (Juzo)	5 Sizes: XS, S, M, L, XL. 2 Leg Lengths Available in foot, calf, knee and thigh piece Up to 52cm ankle, 70cm calf and 100cm thigh Black and Beige Latex free Comes with 1 free liner, additional liner packs available Machine washable at 30 degrees - no fabric softener: 6 months guarantee Extender straps available on FP10 (Juzo dual stretch liner available as alternative to foot piece (see TV advised products)	Click here for: Measuring form: Juzo Adjustable Compression Wrap System Light Application video: Juzo Adjustable Compression Wrap System Light Self Care: https://juzomtmforms.juzocare.co.uk/home#SelfCare

Maintenance and Prevention - Abnormal Limb Shapes



Additional Products

These products are to be assessed and supplied by TVALS

Examination	Compression	Product Information	Product Resources
Additional Products	Juzo Dual Stretch Liner (Juzo)	Can be used as an alternative to the Wrap footpiece 20-30mmHg in the foot only Black Closed Toe 6 Sizes: S,M,L,XL,XXL,XXXL Come as a pair Machine washable and dryable Up to 47cm ankle Latex free 6 months guarantee	Click here for: Measuring form: Juzo Dual Stretch Liner
	JOBST Elvarex Soft Made to Measure (MTM) (Essity)	Latex free Made to measure Various styles and options available 3 compression classes RAL Class 1: 18 - 21mmHg RAL Class 2: 23 - 32mmHg RAL Class 3: 34 - 46mmHg Machine washable 6 months guarantee	Click here for: Measuring form: JOBST Elvarex Measuring Guide: JOBST Elvarex For smooth ordering and quick delivery of Made to measure garments JOBST Delivered can be used - click for further information: JOBST Delivered
	JOBST Elvarex Made to Measure (MTM) (Essity)	Made to measure Various styles and options available 3 compression classes RAL Class 1: 18 - 21mmHg RAL Class 2: 23 - 32mmHg RAL Class 3: 34 - 46mmHg Machine washable 6 months guarantee	Click here for: Measuring form: JOBST Elvarex Measuring Guide: JOBST Elvarex
	JOBST FarrowWrap Classic Made to Measure (MTM) (Essity)	Made to Measure Hand Wash 6 Months guarantee Available in full lower limb Available on drug tariff	Click here for: Measuring Form: JOBST FarrowWrap Classic Patient Information Leaflet: JOBST FarrowWrap Classic For smooth ordering and quick delivery of Made to measure garments JOBST Delivered can be used - click for further information: JOBST Delivered

Hosiery Aids

	Melany (Sigvaris) Sigvaris MELANY Donning aids - SIGVARIS GROUP Britain Sigvaris.com sigvaris melany - Google Search		Sockaid (Urgo Medical) Sockaid – Altimed Compression Hosiery
	Magniglide Arion Magnide 2in1 application aid for compression stockings		Rolly Compression Applicator (Sigvaris) Donning aids Sigvaris.com
	Gardening Gloves or Rubber Gloves (Patients own purchase)		The Compressana Snapper Compressana snapper
	LimbO Waterproof Protectors LimbO Waterproof Protectors		EzyAs and handles EzyAs

Company Contact Details

The following company representatives can support with Education and Training on compression products.

Company	Contact Name	Email	Telephone No.
Essity (JOBST)	Jo Whittaker-Cox	Jo.I.Whittaker@essity.com	07880251939
Juzo	Ben Kelly	ben.kelly@juzo.co.uk	07715495607
Urgo	Nick Crook	n.crook@uk.urgo.com	07483909755
L&R	Debbie Priestley	Debbie.Priestley@uk.LRMed.com	07875754666



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