In association with: NHS South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

Adult Burn Referral Guidance

Total Body Surface Area (TBSA) is the percentage of the body that is covered with a Burn. The size of the patient's whole palm surface is approximately equal to 1% TBSA. For larger burns please refer to the Lund and Brower chart found in the Northern Burn Care Operational Delivery Network Referral Information Pack (link at bottom of pathway).

All referrals to Burns Service (whether urgent, complex or non complex) can be done by calling Sheffield Burns Unit on 0114 2714129, or via https://referrals.mdsas.com/

Assessment		Action
1. Is there suspected Inhalation Injury and/or burns to face, neck and chest.	**Yes**	- Give oxygen and seek anaesthetic review. - Inhalation injury with no cutaneous burns should follow local ICU referral guidelines - If associated burn injury refer to Burns Service for urgent referral.
No		
2. Is the burn more than 15% TBSA, of any depth (patient age over 16 years old)?	**Yes**	- Complex Burn- refer to Burns Services. - Urgently Commence fluid resuscitation using the Parkland Formula. - Catheterise patient. - Ensure patient has two well secured IV cannula. - Administer first aid if able. - Ensure adequate analgesia. - Check tetanus status.
No		
2. Is the burn more than 10% TBSA of any depth (patient over 65 years old)?	**Yes**	
No		

Any questions answered yes in amber sections indicates Complex Burn Referral

Burns Requiring Immediate Referral:

- All burns (any depth) equal to or over 3% TBSA
- All full thickness burns
- All circumferential burns
- Any infected burn, or burn non-healing within 2 weeks
- Burns associated with Non-Accidental Injury (NAI)
- Suspicion of Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS)
- Patients over the age of 75 years old
- Any chemical burns (including hydrofluoric acid, phenol) or petrol immersion
- High pressure steam injuries

Burns Requiring Discussion with Burns Service:

- All burns to hands, feet, face, perineum and genitalia (only extensive hand burns involving full palm and or dorsum/ deep burns will be admitted)
- Any chemical burns (including hydrofluoric acid, phenol) or petrol immersion
- Burns over joint and flexural creases (may require ongoing Physiotherapy/ Occupational Therapy input)
- Any cold injury
- Any concerns regarding burn injuries and co-morbidities that may affect treatment or healing of the burn (i.e. diabetes, renal and liver disease, metastatic cancer, concordance, activities of daily living, hard to dress areas, pregnancy)
- Pain management issues
- Patient requires psychological support due to injury.

Actions for Complex Burns

- Provide adequate analgesia.
- Administer first aid if able by running affected area under cool running water for 20 minutes (this is effective in cooling the burn for up to 3 hours post burn).
- Cleanse wounds with Prontosan Cleansing Solution (as per pathway) and deroof any blisters more than 6mm2.
- If awaiting burns team instructions or for immediate transfer cover burn with layer of polyvinylchloride (PVC) film (i.e. cling film, Glad wrap, Saran wrap)- ensure film is placed on affected area in strips
- Provide adequate analgesia.
- Check tetanus status.
- Consider catheterising patient if burns to perineal or genital area.
- Chemical burns need irrigation- see Burns Network Guidance for details
- Refer to Safeguarding Team if NAI suspected/ confirmed

Any questions answered yes in green section indicates Non- Complex Burn Referral required

11. Is the burn 1-2% TBSA deep dermal or full thickness	**YES**	- Refer to Burns Service for non- complex Burn. - Administer first aid if able by running affected area under cool running water for 20 minutes (this is effective in cooling the burn for up to 3 hours post burn. - Provide adequate analgesia. - Cleanse with Prontosan Cleansing Solution and deroof any blistered more than 1cm^2. - Check tetanus status.
12. Is the burn >5% TBSA epidermal or superficial dermal		

If no to all the above questions refer to Non-Complex Burn Wound Management Pathway

Link to Northern Burn Care Operational Delivery Network Referral Information Pack- includes for Lund and Browder Chart and Fluid Resusitation Guidelines. **Click here:**
https://www.sheffieldchildrens.nhs.uk/download/1019/burns-and-trauma/4716/burns-nbcn-referral-pack.pdf

Developed by The Skin Integrity Team in collaboration with the Adult Burns Specialist Nurse at Sheffield Teaching Hospital NHS Trust Updated January 2025. For review July 2028.