

COMPLEX WOUND CARE SERVICE

- The Complex Wound Care Service is available Monday to Friday for patients with **complex** wounds **ON or ABOVE the ankle**.
 - **Please refer all patients' with wounds to the feet to Podiatry.**
- **EMR referral is required.** If considered urgent, please phone 0401 683 770 at Footscray or 0408 316 294 at Sunshine.
- **All wounds MUST be assessed as part of a full “Head to Toe” skin assessment** on admission and redressed. This means removal of existing dressings/stockings/bandages prior to completing the referral for the Complex Wound Care service to attend.
- To make a referral to the complex wound care service, please complete as many details about the wound as possible to assist the assessment process. This includes **a completed wound care chart** with dimensions of the wound, type of wound bed, exudate level and current dressing regime.
- Patients admitted for a medical reason, with a wound present, should have their current wound care provider contacted by the ward nurse e.g. Bolton Clarke or GP, for the patient's current dressing regime, and continue with this plan.
- The bedside nurse must be present when wounds are assessed by the Complex Wound Care Service, so the dressing regime can be discussed, and a plan of care established that the ward staff can follow.
- Following a verbal handover to the bedside nurse, and/or the nurse in charge, the Wound Care Consultant will update the EMR wound care regime, including the appropriate dressings which ward staff need to order.
- The Wound Care service will arrange a review of complex wounds if deemed necessary. For example; if the wound is at high risk of deterioration or to review the appropriateness of a selected therapy. The date of review will be documented in the consultation notes. Please note: there can be a delay in reviewing due to triaging new referrals and service demand.
- Patients not requiring a review by Wound Care will be discharged from the service. This is documented in the consultation notes. Please note: if the wound deteriorates, a new referral can be generated.

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