



Skin Integrity Team

Patient Information Leaflet

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Author: Skin Integrity Team, Care Plus Group

About the Skin Integrity Team

The Skin Integrity Service (sometimes referred to as the Tissue Viability Team) provides specialist clinical advice, education and support to all individuals relating to wounds and wound care. The team is based at the Cleethorpes Primary Care Centre but covers the whole of North East Lincolnshire.

This includes people who are receiving care from GP's, District Nurses, Practice Nurses and Nurses employed in the private sector.

The team works closely with other health care professionals, family /carers to agree a care plan that is achievable and practical to encourage the best outcomes.

We also provide training for health care professionals to support them in caring for people who are at high risk of tissue breakdown; people who have complex wounds and those who have delayed healing.

Our aim

To promote the best possible treatment options for non-healing wounds in order to improve patient health and quality of life.



Who is eligible?

The service is available for people who are registered with a GP and residing in North East Lincolnshire and who have a wound that has delayed healing. Some wounds take longer to heal than others and factors like other health problems can affect how a wound heals.

- We see patients with all types of wounds and your health care professional will be able to tell you if you qualify for our services.
- If the wound is a leg ulcer, appropriate tests should be carried out by your health care professional prior to referral.

These tests may include a Doppler test, full leg ulcer assessment and relevant blood tests.

If you are already under the care of another speciality or being seen actively by a Consultant e.g. Vascular / Dermatology / Plastics / Podiatry you may not be eligible to be treated by the Team, unless that specialist specifically requests or refers your case directly to us.

How can you access support from the Skin Integrity Team?

We take referrals from Community Practitioners such as GPs and Community Nurses and will work with them to agree a suitable care plan for those individuals who have existing wounds. We can also provide preventative advice once your wound has healed to reduce the risk of recurrence.

We will usually carry out a joint visit with your health care professional so that you are able to ask any questions at the time of the assessment, a plan of care can then be agreed.

To ensure that everyone in North East Lincolnshire has access to the service, the Team is flexible in terms of location and can see people in all appropriate community settings such as clinics, surgeries, care/nursing homes or in their own home.

Members of the public can also contact us for advice, self-care information and support.

Discharge criteria

Every individual and case is different and will receive treatment and support from The Skin Integrity Team for as long as is needed. The Team will plan your discharge when you have achieved one or more of the following criteria:

- An initial assessment has been undertaken with a follow up visit (if required) and / or verbal advice has been given.
- The wound is now stable following specialist intervention and their health care professional has a plan of care to follow.
- The wound is progressing or expected to progress and it is anticipated that it will proceed to healing if the treatment plan is followed.
- Healing is not the anticipated outcome for the wound or the presenting symptoms are outside the clinical expertise of the Skin Integrity Team.

In this instance the Specialist Nurse will ensure, prior to discharge, that the relevant referrals are requested.

How to contact us



01472 256765

Monday to Friday

8.30am to 4.30pm

(excluding Bank Holidays)



Westgate Park,
Charlton St,
Grimsby DN31 1SQ



www.careplusgroup.org

This leaflet is available on request in other formats or languages, please contact the Quality, Regulation & Improvement Team on 01472 266966.