

Assessment of competency: Leg Ulcers

This competency is directed to those professionals working in Adult Social Care that require a general knowledge and understanding of leg ulcers and the skills that support the provision of that care (Tier 1, NWCSP)

Trainee's name.....

Initials.....

Signature.....

Assessor's name.....

Initials.....

Signature.....

General principles	Trainee Initials/ Date	Assessor Initials/Date	Comments
Adheres to local protocols, policies and guidelines relating to leg ulcer care and treatment.			
Demonstrates the application of knowledge and skills within the scope of their practice.			
Knows when to seek advice or support and when a leg ulcer should be escalated as appropriate (GP, District Nurse, Tissue Viability Nurse).			
Obtains informed consent from a person with a leg ulcer, or from their representative before carrying out an assessment or intervention.			
Keeps up to date with statutory and mandatory training requirements related to wound care.			
Works in partnership with relatives, health and social care professionals and others who are significant to the person.			
Understands and documents the history, preferences, wishes and needs of the person related to wound care and maintains the records up to date.			

General principles	Trainee Initials/ Date	Assessor Initials/Date	Comments
Ensures that the privacy and dignity of the individual is maintained at all times in line with the person's individual needs and preferences.			
Maintains confidentiality of information.			
Understands the importance of good hand hygiene and Personal Protective Equipment when supporting someone with a leg ulcer to prevent the spread of infection.			
Demonstrates effective hand hygiene.			
Communicates clearly and coherently taking into account the needs of individuals and checking that the person understands what has been explained.			
Identifies any communication barriers with the individuals and takes the appropriate action.			
Actively listens to any questions and concerns raised.			
Assessment			
Understands the functions of the skin and the importance of maintaining skin integrity.			
Able to describe the four principles of skin care (cleanse, dry, moisturise and protect)			

Assessment	Trainee Initials/ Date	Assessor Initials/Date	Comments
Understands the difference between a leg wound and a leg ulcer			
Has an awareness of the risk factors that may prevent or delay the leg ulcer from healing (medical conditions like heart failure, vascular disease, diabetes, poor mobility, medications, etc)			
Accurately observes and documents the location, duration, colour, exudate and other relevant wound parameters.			
Knows who are the relevant members of the team and/or health care professionals they need to escalate any concerns to.			
Seeks consent before taking a wound picture.			
Uses only the company's approved equipment to take wound pictures.			
Applies the principles for taking digital wound pictures (adequate light, focus, neutral background, etc.)			
Wound Care			
<p>Recognises and escalates to the appropriate clinician (GP, District Nurse, 111, 999) the signs of foot wound deterioration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infected foot ulcer (Increased redness, swelling, pain, exudate, heat, bad smell) 			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sepsis (confusion, high or low temperature, changes to the skin, low blood pressure, high heart rate, etc) - Deep Vein Thrombosis (throbbing pain in 1 leg, swelling in 1 leg, warm skin around the painful area, red or dark skin around the painful area, swollen veins that are hard or sore to touch) 			
<p>Able to apply and change a leg ulcer dressings under supervision or if trained to do so by a health care professional (only if applicable)</p>			
<p>Wound Care</p>	<p>Trainee Initials/ Date</p>	<p>Assessor Initials/Date</p>	<p>Comments</p>
<p>Able to understand the importance of adequate wound cleaning and the use of emollients in leg ulcers.</p>			
<p>Understands the importance of compression therapy in venous leg ulcers.</p>			
<p>Recognises the signs when an individual is in pain or discomfort and takes appropriate action (repositioning, administration of pain killers, escalation, etc.)</p>			
<p>Understands the importance of good hydration and nutrition in wound healing.</p>			
<p>Understands the importance of encouraging the person to mobilise within their capabilities to promote general good health and promote wound healing.</p>			
<p>Supports the person to follow the recommendations made by the health care professional</p>			

Is aware that reassessment should take place at least every 4 weeks or sooner if there is deterioration and supports the service user to attend these appointments			
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References:

The Care Certificate Standards- Skills for Care and Health Education England

Lower Limb Recommendations for Clinical Care- National Wound Care Strategy Programme

Wound Care Workforce Framework 2023- National Wound Care Strategy, Skills for Health, NHS

Wound Care Education for the Health and Care Workforce- E-learning for healthcare- ELFH, NHS England