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### Overview

This standard is about the management of individuals, both adults and children, who suffer with leg ulceration and associated conditions. This treatment may take place within primary or secondary care settings. Performance of this standard will include continuous assessment of the status of ulceration and taking relevant action to help the individual to manage the condition, or referral for other specialist support.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

# SFHCHS116

## Manage individuals with leg ulcers

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### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

- P1 apply standard precautions for infection control and other health and safety measures including use of relevant protective equipment
- P2 obtain, or review all existing information including individual history, assessment, previous test results, previous injuries, and source of referral
- P3 explain the process, procedure, potential side effects and need for adherence to treatment to the individual and confirm their understanding
- P4 respond to the concerns and perceptions of individuals and carers regarding the use and application of treatments
- P5 identify the cause of ulceration and signs of arterial or venous disease and other atypical ulcer presentations or malignancy
- P6 assess the location and measurements of the ulcer, the nature of the wound bed and peri ulcer skin to ensure effective dressing selection and skincare plan
- P7 assess and manage pain and discomfort, including referral to appropriate agency
- P8 refer non-venous ulcers for appropriate management
- P9 identify any abnormalities of the surrounding skin, treat any obvious infection and manage appropriately
- P10 take appropriate action to ensure effective management of underlying aetiology
- P11 decide on the most suitable compression system
- P12 arrange for hosiery to be fitted in cases of healed venous leg ulcers
- P13 plan further treatment and make necessary arrangements with individual and relevant health care professions for long term care
- P14 provide the individual and their carer(s), with correct information and education to assist with management of their condition, including prevention of ulceration or relapse

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### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 the function, adverse effects, contra-indications and interaction problems associated with commonly prescribed medication
- K2 procedures and protocols associated with the treatment of leg ulcers
- K3 the factors that determine when additional or alternative medications would be required and prescribed
- K4 basic pharmacology and its application to dermatological conditions
- K5 methods for application of emollients and topical treatments
- K6 the factors that influence the choice of dressing for treatment of leg ulcers
- K7 how to assist individuals to adjust to taking and applying medications or compression bandaging
- K8 methods of monitoring treatment for specific dermatological conditions
- K9 advice and guidance that may be offered to individuals regarding life style changes while receiving treatment for leg ulcers
- K10 the importance of compliance and individual awareness of the long term nature of his/her medication regime
- K11 the sources of support, advice and information which may prove helpful to individuals
- K12 the criteria for referral of individuals for additional assessment or change of medication
- K13 the pathophysiology of common dermatological conditions
- K14 the relevance of microbiology, immunology and the epidemiology of infection in dermatological care
- K15 the mechanics of transmission of infection and the implications of infection for individuals, their families and carers
- K16 the systemic conditions that may initially present as a dermatological condition
- K17 statutory requirements relating to prescription
- K18 your own role, responsibilities, limitations, level of competence and authority in relation to the management of individual's with leg ulcers
- K19 the use, application, limitations and risks associated with compression systems for management of leg ulcers

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#### Additional Information

##### External links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB7 Interventions and treatments

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<b>Developed by</b>	Skills for Health
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<b>Status</b>	Original
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<b>Originating organisation</b>	Skills for Health
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<b>Original URN</b>	CHS116
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<b>Relevant occupations</b>	Health, Public Services and Care; Medicine and Dentistry; Nursing and Subjects and Vocations Allied; Health Professionals; Healthcare and Related Personal Services
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<b>Suite</b>	Clinical Health Skills
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<b>Key words</b>	Leg ulcers, leg ulceration, dermatology
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