

SFHDiabDF03

Provide wound care to treat an ulcerated foot of an individual with diabetes



Overview

This standard concerns continuing wound care, which may be undertaken in the community by practitioners who are not part of a foot protection team or specialist diabetes foot care service. The activities described in this standard are likely to apply following a referral arising from an advanced examination and initial treatment of an ulceration on the feet of an individual with diabetes, usually undertaken by a foot protection team or specialist diabetes foot care service. The individual may be accompanied by a carer who should be included in the discussions if the individual chooses to involve them.

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

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 discuss and confirm the results of the foot examination and referral with the individual and carer in an appropriate manner and at a suitable level and pace
- P2 gather information on any subjective symptoms arising since the last examination through discussion with the individual
- P3 use this information and observation of the wound for any change in appearance to decide whether to proceed with the planned treatment or, if complications have arisen, to refer for specialist assessment
- P4 confirm that the individual understands the purpose and nature of the proposed treatment and gives their consent
- P5 remove dead tissue and dress the wound with a dressing appropriate to the type of wound and its site
- P6 provide instruction to enable the individual to keep the dressing dry and free from contamination
- P7 arrange for the dressing to be changed at regular intervals according to your assessment of need
- P8 agree when the individual will next come for treatment or re-examination, leaving an interval appropriate to the risks you have identified and treatment you have initiated
- P9 ensure that the individual and carer are able to recognise signs of infection or ulcer deterioration and that they know how to access help and emergency help, if they need it
- P10 assess through discussion the individual's understanding of the risks to their feet and reinforce the benefits of good glycaemic control, self care and monitoring to prevent complications
- P11 offer written information on foot care in a suitable form for the individual and carer to reinforce their understanding
- P12 make a record of the treatment which can be followed by other members of the care team, the individual and carer

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 national guidelines for diabetes management and education
- K2 national guidelines on wound care and on prevention and management of foot problems for people with diabetes
- K3 the causes of diabetes
- K4 signs and symptoms of diabetes
- K5 normal and abnormal blood glucose and HbA1c values
- K6 how to monitor glucose levels, HbA1c, blood pressure
- K7 the importance and effects of patient education and self management
- K8 the psychological impact of diabetes, at diagnosis and in the long term
- K9 how to gather information from patients – adults, children and young people -about their health
- K10 the psychology of teaching and learning and of behavioural change
- K11 how to work in partnership with patients – adults, children and young people – and carers
- K12 the social, cultural and economic background of the patient/carer group and how these impact on self-care and self-management
- K13 the impact of nutrition and physical activity on diabetes
- K14 the effects of smoking, alcohol and illicit drugs
- K15 how to manage hypoglycaemia
- K16 the medications used to manage diabetes
- K17 how to examine feet and assess risk status
- K18 the wound healing process, factors affecting wound healing, potential complications of wound healing, and evidence based wound care
- K19 the types and of pathogens specific to diabetic foot wounds
- K20 the long term complications of diabetes and when they are likely to occur
- K21 relevant professional guidelines, standards and codes of professional conduct
- K22 the law and good practice guidelines on consent
- K23 your role in the healthcare team and the role of others
- K24 local guidelines and protocols on diabetes healthcare
- K25 local child protection procedures
- K26 local referral pathways, the way in which referrals are made and how to make contact, and the referral rights of each type of healthcare practitioner
- K27 local systems for recording patient information
- K28 audit and quality assurance systems
- K29 sources of practitioner and patient information on diabetes
- K30 sources of practitioner information about podiatry and wound care to keep up-to-date with new dressings, equipment and guidelines
- K31 contact details of local and national support groups
- K32 how individuals can access facilities for exercise and physical activity,

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education and community activities

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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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