



**National Wound Care
Strategy Programme**

The National Wound Care Strategy Programme (NWCSP) aims to ensure that every patient across the UK receives excellent wound care.

Commissioned by NHS England, the programme develops recommendations to support the prevention and care of pressure ulcers, leg and foot ulcers and surgical wound complications. People with wounds, carers, suppliers and health and care professionals can stay up to date with programme developments by subscribing to this newsletter.

NWCSP UPDATE

The NWCSP team would like to give an update on the status of the programme now it has entered its final year.

We can now confirm that the programme will come to an end at the end of March 2025. As such, we have begun the vital work to find new homes for the wound care resources we have developed for people with wounds, carers and health and care professionals (and we will communicate this information to our stakeholders when arrangements are in place). This will be our priority work going forward so changes are being made to our governance structure and regular meetings, to ensure that our work to reduce wound care variation is passed on.

The NWCSP team would like to thank everyone who has taken part in the programme's activities since its launch in 2018 - we couldn't have done this without you!

SURGICAL WOUND COMPLICATIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

Of the estimated 2.2 million people with a wound that has not healed within 4 weeks, 29% have an acute wound related to surgery.

The purpose of the NWCSP Surgical Wound Complications recommendations is to provide clear advice for health and care practitioners, service managers and commissioners about the fundamentals of evidence-informed care for people with surgical wound complications.

This resource replaces the previous Surgical Wound recommendations published by the programme and is intended for use in all clinical care settings, aiming to support implementation of evidence-based clinical practice in the treatment of surgical wounds. To further demonstrate the recommended pathway of care, a surgical wound complications clinical pathway is also available.

View the recommendations on our [surgical wound complications web page](#).



EVALUATION REPORT: IMPLEMENTING THE LOWER LIMB RECOMMENDATIONS

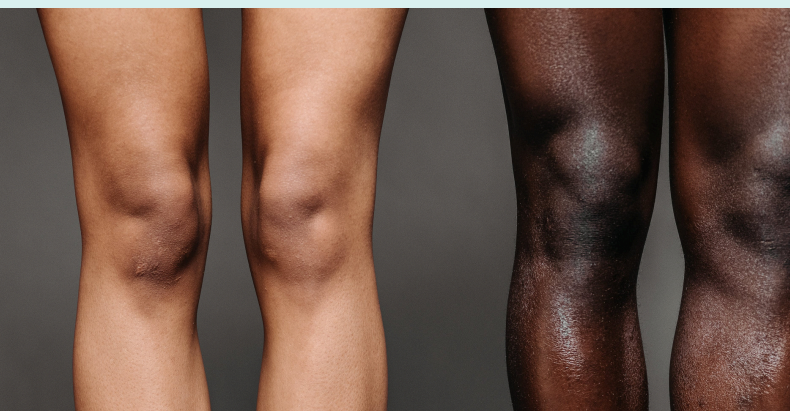
We are excited to announce the publication of the evaluation report 'Implementing the Lower Limb Recommendations and Learnings from the First Tranche Implementation Sites', a significant component of the National Wound Care Strategy Programme (NWCSP).

This comprehensive evaluation highlights substantial improvements in patient outcomes and establishes a new national benchmark for best practices in wound care.

Findings from implementing the recommendations revealed that:

- 52% of leg ulcers healed within 0-12 weeks (with an overall healing rate of 84% at 52 weeks for all lower limb wounds).
- An estimated net zero impact from patients receiving optimal care with 473,305kg of CO2 emissions saved (equivalent to 277 cars driven in a year).

The [evaluation report documents](#) are available on the NWCSP website.



PRESSURE ULCER CATEGORISATION TOOL

The NWCSP is delighted to report that the pressure ulcer categorisation tool is now available on [the NWCSP website](#).

The pressure ulcer categorisation tool helps health and care professionals identify the most suitable pressure ulcer category for their patient, considering the look and feel of the pressure ulcer, general anatomy and factors such as skin tone and temperature. The four categories outlined are taken directly from international pressure ulcer guidelines and reflect the NWCSP Clinical Recommendations from 2023.

FREE WOUND CARE EDUCATION

Working with [Workforce Training Education](#) (formerly [Health Education England](#)), the NWCSP has created a new online wound care module, [Pressure Ulcer Risk Assessment: PURPOSE-T](#), which is now available through the E-Learning for Healthcare (Elfh) learning hub. This module aims to enhance Tier 1 learners' knowledge of the PURPOSE-T pressure ulcer risk assessment tool and increase understanding of the pathways of prevention. Another new module focused on vascular assessment is due to be completed in September.

In addition, the following modules across the existing suite have been updated:

- [Essentials of the Foot at Risk \(Tier 1\)](#)
- [Essentials of Wound Assessment \(Tier 1\)](#)
- [Essentials of Skin Care \(Tier 1\)](#)
- [Essentials of Leg Ulceration \(Tier 1\)](#)
- [Essentials of Pressure Ulcer Prevention \(Tier 1\)](#)
- [Dressing Wounds \(Tier 2\)](#)

The Digital Imaging (Tier 1) and Foot at Risk (Tier 2) modules are being updated over the coming weeks. In addition, work will soon begin on four new modules focusing on the Essentials of Wound Infection (Tier 1), Diagnosing and Managing Wound Infection (Tier 2), Managing Surgical Wounds (Tier 2) and Managing Surgical Wound Complications (Tier 2).

These interactive, peer-reviewed modules have been developed to suit different learning styles and are designed to support health and care professionals in caring for people with wounds.

[Enrol for free today](#) to enhance your wound care knowledge.



For further information about the National Wound Care Strategy Programme, visit: www.nationalwoundcarestrategy.net

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