

## Determining Candidacy for Adjunctive Therapies

Person with a 'Healable' Wound

New Admission

Pre-existing Patient

- Wound with large surface area, i.e. a venous leg ulcer >5cm<sup>2</sup>
- Wound of a long duration, i.e. a venous leg ulcer >6 months
- Wound that interferes with functional activities, i.e. a pressure injury on a person with a spinal cord injury
- Wounds on those with medical comorbidities that will prevent timely closure
- Presence of uncontrolled neuropathic pain
- Unusual diagnosis or patient demand

- Wound has failed to progress towards timely closure, i.e. 20-40% reduction in wound surface area over a period of two to four weeks
- Wound has failed to completely close after three months of evidence-informed treatment
- Wound interferes with functional activities
- Wounds on those with medical comorbidities that are preventing timely closure
- Presence of uncontrolled neuropathic pain
- Unusual diagnosis or patient demand

Conditions Met

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- The underlying cause of the wound and co-factors affecting healability have been addressed/corrected
- Patient-centered factors such as pain, coherence, and quality of life issues have been addressed/corrected
- Wound has been appropriately debrided
- Bacterial burden has been assessed and managed as indicated
- An ideal moist wound healing environment has been established

Conditions Met

Refer to a physiotherapist or other trained health care provider to consider the use of adjunctive therapies, i.e.:

- What adjunctive therapies that you have access to?
- Is the adjunctive therapy indicated based on the wound etiology?
- What are the indications/contraindications for those therapies, and do your patient and their wound qualify?
- What are the goals of utilizing the adjunctive therapy, and are they realistic/achievable?
- What stage of wound healing is the wound in, and does that coincide with the effects of the adjunctive therapy?
- Consider the cost benefit of the treatment
- Who will be applying the therapy, and what level of education/skill is required?
- Where will the therapy be provided, and is that location appropriate?

Conditions Met

- Implement therapy
- **Reassess regularly** to determine whether or not the therapy is meeting its intended goals and discontinue if:
  - The wound fails to significantly reduce in wound surface area after two-four weeks use
  - The wound size regresses
  - The person becomes medically unstable
  - Other management is indicated
  - The wound needs less skilled care
  - Goals are met

Conditions NOT met – Reassess the **WHOLE** patient and their wound and implement appropriate interventions to promote wound closure

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