

Lower Leg Ulcers

PATIENT PRESENTATION
Patient presents with ulcer or wound affecting the lower leg

RED FLAGS
Does the patient present with any of the following:

- Spreading infection
- Sepsis
- Critical limb ischaemia

ADMISSION
Consider admission to, or review by, the most clinically appropriate department; this may include GP, Acute Medicine, Vascular or the Emergency Department.

ULCER BELOW ANKLE
Does the ulcer predominantly affect an area on or below the level of the malleolus?

REFER TO PODIATRY
Consider referral to Podiatry. Information relating to management of podiatry conditions is available on Grampian Guidance under Allied Health Professionals page.

SKIN TEAR
Does patient present with a new skin tear? (≤ 48 hours from injury)

SKIN TEAR MANAGEMENT
For injuries due to skin tear, follow the International Skin Tear Advisory Panel (ISTAP) skin tear classification and management pathway on [page 2](#)

ASSESSMENT
Complete the [leg ulcer - assessment form](#) and perform Ankle Brachial Pressure Index (ABPI).
Should you require additional educational or clinical support in wound assessment or ABPIs, please contact your local wound advocate:

- Aberdeen City
- Aberdeenshire
- Moray

Not healing after 2-4 weeks

UNCERTAIN AETIOLOGY
Is there concern that lesion could be malignant, inflammatory ulceration or cutaneous vasculitis?

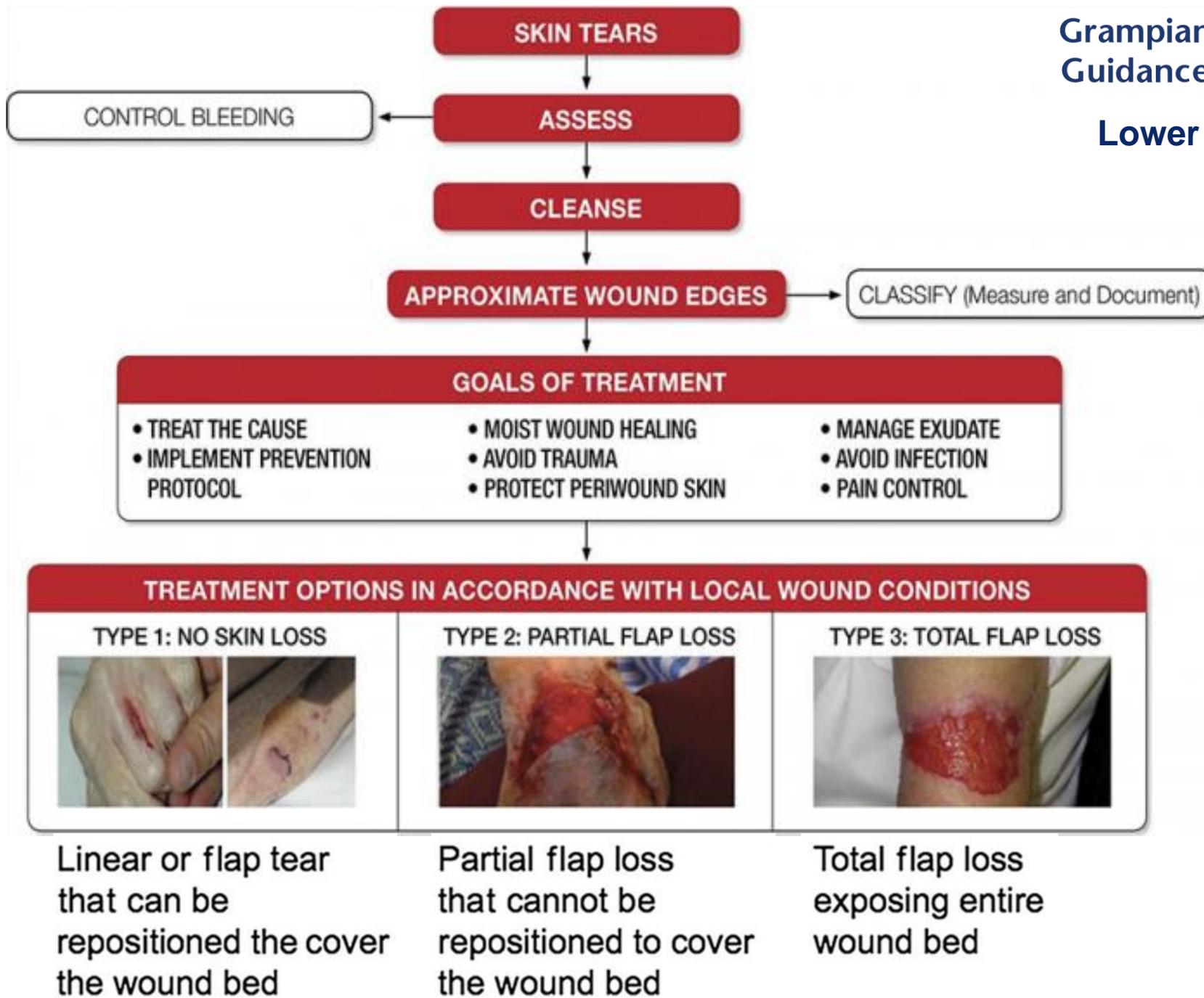
CONSIDER REFERRAL
Suspected malignancy, consider referral to Dermatology or Plastic Surgery.
Suspected inflammatory ulceration or cutaneous vasculitis, consider referral to Dermatology.

ABPI 0.8 – 1.3
For patients with ABPI of 0.8 – 1.3, consider managing ulcer locally with tissue viability support when required via eclinic.
Follow [SIGN 120 – Management of chronic venous leg ulcers](#)

ABPI < 0.8 OR > 1.3
If ABPI is < 0.8 or > 1.3, consider referral to Vascular for further assessment as arterial ulcers.

ABPI UNOBTAINABLE
If ABPI is unobtainable due to ulcer location or non-compressible arteries, consider referral to Vascular for further assessment.

Version – 2	Title – Lower Leg Ulcers	Department – Tissue Viability	FINAL
Creator – Lower Limb Formulary SLWG	Lead – Fiona Russell	Last Review – 14 July 2022	Next Review – 14 July 2024



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