

Assessment of Adjacent Tissue

Adjacent Skin Assessment

	Observe For ...	Palpate For ...
Skin Texture	Dryness Early melanoma	Turgor
Scar Tissue	Color Abnormal scarring	Smoothness Flexibility Toughness Thickness
Callus	Yellow skin Scaling, flaking, cracking Location Hemorrhage	Firmness Roughness
Maceration	White discoloration Location	Texture Thickness
Edema	Location Symmetry Signs of cellulitis, abscess, DVT, Charcot's joint	Pitting or non-pitting Edema measurement
Tissue Color	Location Color	Blanchable or not erythema Skin temperature Pulses
Hair	Location Skin color	Skin temperature Pulses
Toenails	Color Shape Irregularities	Thickness
Blisters	Location Size Intactness Color of fluid inside	Resiliency
Sensation	Pain	Temperature Protective sensation Thermal sensation Vibratory perception

The South West Regional Wound Care Program



Vision: Integrated, evidenced-informed skin and wound care – every person, every health care sector, every day.

Mission: To advocate for the seamless, timely and equitable delivery of safe, efficient, and effective, person-centered, evidenced-informed skin and wound care to the people of the South West LHIN, regardless of the healthcare setting.



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Significance of Adjacent Tissue

- Clues about skin health
- Can indicate phase of wound healing
- Hints of overall health status of person

Edema Symmetry as a Clue to Edema Etiology

Unilateral	Bilateral
Acute DVT	Congestive Heart Failure
Venous Insufficiency	Cirrhosis
Lymphedema	Malnutrition
Cellulitis	Obesity
Abscess	Limb dependence
Charcot's Joint	Drugs, i.e. hormones, NSAIDS, antihypertensives
Popliteal aneurysm	
Limb dependency	
Revascularization	

Breaking Blisters

- De-roof when blister is:
 - Large
 - Filled with unclear or bloody fluid
 - Compromising joint function
 - Undoubtedly going to break
- Leave intact when blister is:
 - Small
 - Filled with clear fluid
 - Not compromising joint function