The SWRWCP’s Venous/Mixed Leg Ulcer Assessment and Management Algorithm

Person with a Venous or Mixed Leg Ulcer

Assess
- "Initial Wound Assessment Form"
- "Nestle Mini Nutritional Assessment® Tool"
- "Interdisciplinary Lower Leg Ulcer Assessment Form"
- "NPUAP PUSH Tool 3.0"
- "Determining Healability Tool"

Treat the Cause
Venous reflux, vascular flow, ankle joint mobility

Treat Co-Factors
Nutrition, mobility, medications, lifestyle factors, underlying chronic/acute disease

Address Person’s Concerns
- "Comprehensive Assessment of Chronic Pain in Wounds"
- "WHO Pain Ladder with Pain Management Guide"
- "Cardiff Wound Impact (Quality of Life) Questionnaire"
- Concordance

Educate
- "My Venous Leg Ulcer" pamphlet
- "The Importance of Nutrition in Wound Healing" pamphlet

Reassess
- If the wound is healable and the surface area has not reduced 20-30% over a 3-4 week period, reassess the ENTIRE person again
- If the person and their wound are being managed according to best practice and the wound surface area has failed to reduce in size as expected, consider a referral to an ET or WCS (see "Criteria for Interdisciplinary Referrals")
- May need to consider adjunctive therapies, skin substitutes/grafs/flaps, biologic dressings (healable wounds only)

Moisture Balance and Dressing Selection
- Promote a moist wound healing environment in healable wounds
- Provide a clean, dry environment for maintenance/non-healable wounds
- Consider using the SWRWCP’s dressing selection and cleansing enablers to choose cleansing and dressing methods

Infection/Inflammation
- Assess using the "Bioburden Assessment Tool"
- Treat using the "Bacterial Burden in Chronic Wounds" chart. Consider topical antimicrobials for critically colonized wounds, and topical and systemic antimicrobials for infected wounds
- Rule out osteomyelitis

Debridement
- Debride (within your scope) non-viable tissue in healable wounds only, except stable heel ulcers covered in eschar
- Do NOT debride maintenance or non-healable wounds unless you have the knowledge/skill/judgment to debride non-viable tissue for the purpose of reducing bacterial burden, drainage, and/or odor

For more information go to: swrwoundcareprogram.ca

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