

For Diabetic Foot Ulcer (DFU) patients, please refer to your local DFU antibiotic guidelines - (link/QR code on page 2)

Complete a comprehensive
holistic/wound assessment.
Treat underlying aetiology

Identify the clinical signs and symptoms of wound infection present

(This pathway is for guidance and should not replace clinical judgement)

Signs of Biofilm (IWII)

- Delayed/static wound healing despite optimal wound management
- Failed response to antimicrobial/antibiotic treatment.
- Recurrence of delayed healing on cessation of antibiotic treatment.
- Friable/unhealthy granulation tissue
- Low level erythema/chronic inflammation
- Increased exudate
- Secondary signs of infection

Covert (subtle signs) of local infection (IWII)

- Hypergranulation
- Bleeding friable granulation tissue
- Epithelial bridging and pocketing in granulation tissue.
- Increasing exudate
- Delayed wound healing beyond expectations

Overt (classic signs) of local infection (IWII)

- Erythema
- Local warmth
- Swelling
- Purulent discharge
- Wound breakdown/enlargement
- New or increasing pain
- Increased malodour

Spreading and systemic infection (IWII)

- Extending induration
- Spreading erythema/inflammation >2cm from wound edge
- Crepitus (abnormal sounds/sensations)
- Wound breakdown/dehiscence
- Lymphangitis (swelling of lymph glands)
- Malaise
- Lethargy
- Loss of appetite
- Fever/pyrexia
- Organ failure

Biofilm Based Wound Care (BBWC)

- **Cleanse** wound and periwound with surfactant/antimicrobial solution (page 2)
- **(Debride)** biofilm/wound debris using formulary approved mechanical debridement pad (page 2)
- **Refashion** edges using above products to agitate the wound margins, clearing any dry skin cells or debris.
- **Dress** the wound with antimicrobial dressings from the wound care formulary (page 2)

The above steps must be completed at each dressing change for at least 2 weeks then reassess.

Local Wound Infection Guide (LWIG)

- **1. Cleanse** wound and periwound with surfactant/antimicrobial solution (page 2).
- **2. Debride** biofilm/wound debris using formulary approved mechanical debridement pad if safe and appropriate (page 2)
- **3. Consider taking a swab and obs** (page 2).
- **4. Dress** the wound with antimicrobial dressings from the wound care formulary (page 2).
- **5. Escalate to GP/Non medical prescriber** as antibiotics may be required.

Spreading/Systemic Infection Guide

- **Sepsis screening** - complete NEWS2
- *** Swab wound** – send for MC&S
- **Escalate to GP** as will require antibiotics / admission to secondary care
- **Follow 1,2 & 4 of Local Wound Infection Guide (LWIG)**

Contamination

Colonisation

Local wound infection

Spreading infection

Systemic infection

Reassess and evaluate treatment

- Follow BBWC or LWIG for a minimum of 2 weeks then reassess. Biofilms can be stubborn and may require longer.
- When signs and symptoms of infection have resolved, discontinue antimicrobials.
- If symptoms persist, seek advice from the appropriate specialist wound care service i.e. Tissue Viability, Podiatry, IP&C, Microbiology, GP.

Norfolk & Waveney ICS Wound Infection Pathway

A collaboration between Tissue Viability, Infection Prevention & Control, Podiatry and Medicines Optimisation. NWICS Jan 2025 Final V1.9
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Proud to be a part of the
Norfolk and Waveney
Integrated Care System (ICS)



Dressings/Products

Contamination

Colonisation

Local wound infection

Spreading infection

Systemic infection

Biofilm Based Wound Care (BBWC)

- **Cleanse** - *Prontosan® Solution* request from Tissue Viability Service if commissioned or FP10 if not).
- **Debride** - *Alprep® (Debrisoft® on shadow formulary)* - mechanical debridement pad
- **Refashion** - edges using above products to agitate the wound margins, clearing any dry skin cells or debris.
- **Dress** - antimicrobial dressings;

Main formulary

Cutimed Sorbact range®
Activon Honey Tube®
Algivon Plus® honey
Flaminal Forte/Hydro®
Iodosorb®
Iodoflex®

Shadow Formulary

Inadine®
Aquacel Ag Plus Extra®
Urgoclean Ag®
Suprasorb X +PHMB®

Shadow Formulary items available via Tissue Viability Service or FP10

Local Wound Infection Guide (LWIG)

- **Cleanse** *Prontosan® Solution* (TVN or FP10)
- **Debride** – *Alprep® (Debrisoft® on shadow formulary)* - mechanical debridement pad.
- **Dress** - antimicrobial dressings;

Main formulary

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Activon Honey Tube®
Algivon Plus® honey
Flaminal Forte/Hydro®
Iodosorb®
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Shadow Formulary

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Urgoclean Ag®
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Spreading/Systemic Infection Guide

- Follow Local Wound Infection Guide for dressings.

[Norfolk and Waveney Formulary - Knowledge NoW](#)

[Diabetic Foot Health - Knowledge NoW](#)

[Taking a wound swab – go to page 16](#)

