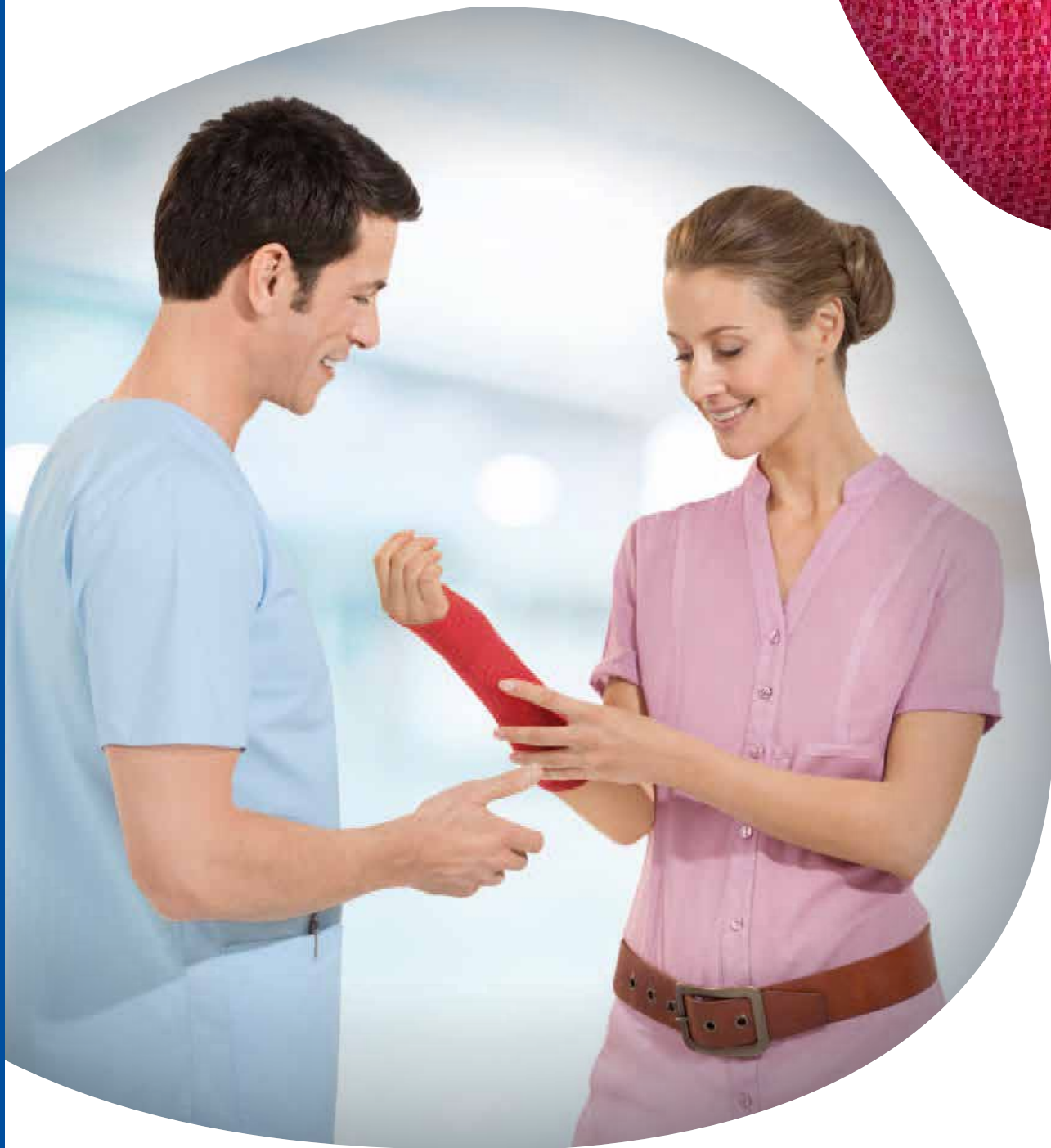


Principles of casting

patient assessment factsheet



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Careful patient assessment is an important part of the casting process. This at-a-glance guide takes you through the key questions you need to ask before applying the cast.

	1. The basics	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the indication or injury? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why is the cast being applied?
	2. Patient history	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there an underlying condition which may affect the way you apply the cast? Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Diabetes » Rheumatoid disease » Neurological impairment » Allergies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For lower limb casts, has the patient been assessed for venous thromboembolism risk?
	3. Assessing the injury	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at the skin. Is there a wound or redness anywhere? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out a neurovascular assessment of the limb both before and after the application of the cast/
	4. Planning for the cast	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which bony areas will need extra padding? Where are the blood vessels or nerves that are close to the surface and may be compromised? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is swelling expected? Is the cast to be weight-bearing? Assess the number of staff required to safely hold the patient's limb and apply the cast
	5. Documentation	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document that these checks have been made and any abnormal findings in the notes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the answers to these questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Select the appropriate padding and materials » Gather together the equipment that is needed » Check this will all conform to the medical prescription