Antimicrobial Stewardship

Antimicrobial stewardship strategies for wound management



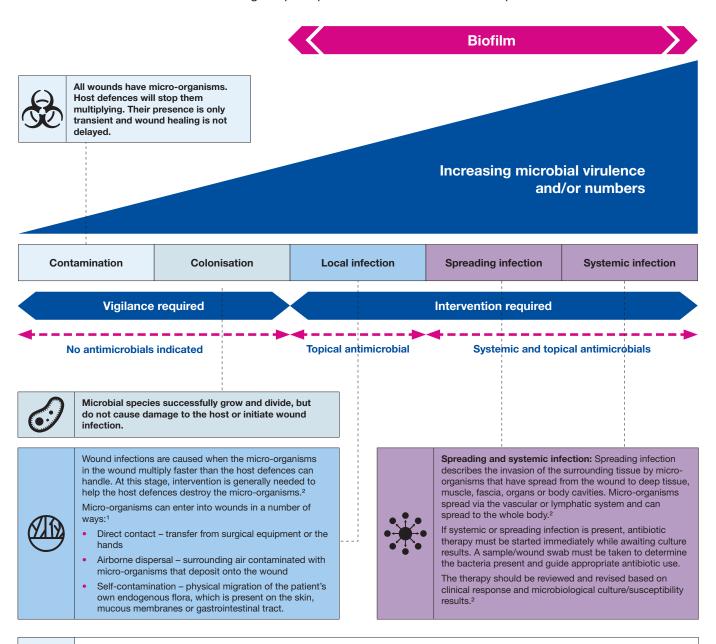




Understanding the importance of the infection continuum

Clinicians caring for patients with, or at risk of, wounds need to be able to recognise the signs and symptoms of wound infection.¹

The infection continuum describes the relationship between increasing microbial virulence and the clinical response invoked within the patient. This factsheet will help you understand the stages of the infection continuum and the signs/symptoms to look out for, and provides a pathway to guide management of patients with wounds with or without infection risk considering the principles of antimicrobial stewardship.





Red flag: acute deterioration or sepsis: Sepsis is a rare, but potentially fatal, condition. Recognising and treating infection early, before sepsis develops, is vital. If the patient looks ill, has triggered the National Early Warning Score (pulse, blood pressure, respiratory rate, oxygen levels, temperature and conscious level), or there are signs of infection – then the patient should be screened for sepsis.³

- 1. Wounds UK (2020) Best Practice Statement: Antimicrobial stewardship strategies for wound management. Wounds UK, London.
- 2. International Wound Infection Institute (IWII) Wound Infection in Clinical Practice Wound International 2016
- 3. Royal College of phylicians (2017) $\underline{\text{Working report}}$



Pathway to guide management of patients, considering the principles of antimicrobial stewardship¹

Assess the patient and their comorbidities, wound(s), skin and environment to identify factors that may impact on infection. Comprehensive reassessment and reviews will guide if changes to the management plan are required.



No wound present Infection risk factors* present



Follow strategies to reduce risk of infection and wound development



Wound present
No infection risk
factors



No antimicrobial treatment necessary

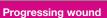
Follow strategies to reduce risk of infection and promote wound healing



Wound present Infection risk factors* present



Is the wound progressing, non-healing or deteriorating?



- Antimicrobial treatment not necessary
- Follow strategies to reduce risk of infection and wound deterioration



Local wound infection



- ✓ Topical antimicrobial agent
- Implement infection management
- Follow strategies to reduce risk of infection and promote wound healing
- ✓ Reassess at regular intervals as per local protocol and following the two-week challenge principles



Systemic or spreading wound infection



- IV or oral antibiotics
- ☑ Refer to an appropriate clinical specialist
- ✓ Take a wound swab
- ✓ Topical antimicrobial agent
- Follow strategies to reduce risk of infection and promote wound healing





Non-healing wound may be indicative of biofilm

- ☑ Debride and cleanse
- ☑ Consider a dressing with a physical mode of action
- ☑ Follow strategies to reduce risk of infection and promote wound healing
- Reassess at regular intervals as per local protocol and following the two-week challenge principles

Deteriorating wound

- ☑ Debride and cleanse
- ☑ Use an antimicrobial topical agent or a dressing with a physical mode of action
 as per local protocol
- Consider potential for spreading or systemic infection and whether systemic antibiotics are required and whether a wound swab is appropriate
- Reassess at regular intervals as per local protocol and following the two-week challenge principles

*Factors associated with increased risk of wound infection include diabetes, emergency procedures, smoking, severe obesity, altered immune function, malnutrition, low body temperature, and long operation times.





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