

Lower Limb Wound Care

Reference Number: RDF2160-23

Date of Response: 03/01/24

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response(s) below:

Please be aware that the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Royal Devon) has existed since 1st April 2022 following the integration of the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (known as Northern Services) and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (known as Eastern Services).

Under the Freedom of Information Act, this is a request for information on the lower limb wound care services within your Trust.

1. *Do you have a dedicated service for lower limb wounds in your Trust? (Lower limb wound services can be described as a healthcare service providing care for patients with chronic wounds located below the knee and above the foot.)*

Answer: Yes.

If no, please proceed to question 2

If yes, please complete questions: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, & 1.4.

- 1.1. *Is this service delivered by a doctor or nurse led?*

- *Delivered by a medically trained doctor*
- Nurse lead*
- *Other (Please specify)*

Answer: Nurse lead.

- 1.2. *Are the staff who provide lower limb services able to apply compression bandaging? (Bandages that result in therapeutic levels of lower limb compression when applied with pressure)*

- Yes*
- *No*
- *Other (Please specify)*

Answer: Yes.

1.3. *What are the clinical requirements to be eligible for this service?*

Please specify:

Answer: Please see below.

Acceptance criteria:

- Adults (over 18) who have been referred by a healthcare professional.
- Patient has an open lesion/wound to a lower limb with signs of venous insufficiency, which is non-healing after four weeks of treatment in Primary Care.
- Any health care professional can refer to the service when an ulcer is suspected, and/or when a patient is identified who has previously had an ulcer.
- Self-referral is acceptable where there is a re-occurrence, or the patient has previously accessed the service.
- Temporary residents must first register with a GP practice before their first appointment, and be referred by their local healthcare practitioner, providing past Lower Limb and current medical history, medication list and provide assessment evidence of the patient's most recent Doppler and ABPI. 6.4

Exclusion criteria:

- Any non-healing lower limb wound less than four weeks old.
- Any non-healing lower limb wound where there is no indication of venous insufficiency.
- Any patient currently already receiving care for their leg ulcer(s) via a specialist Secondary Care Service.
- Any patient who has a diagnosis of Carcinoma of the lower limb.
- Any patient who has a Diabetic ankle and/or foot ulcer(s) • Any patient who does not consent to the referral into the Service.
- Pressure damage to skin and under lying structure.
- Any patient who has swollen, oedematous legs in the absence of a leg ulcer.

If the patient is not eligible for the service, they will be referred on to a specialist service as appropriate.

Patients refusing treatment: Patients who, following assessment, refuse treatment or compression therapy will be discharged back to the referrer with clear advice about consultation given and how to rerefer should the patient change their mind.

1.4. *How are referrals received for this service?*

- Electronic e.g. e-referral system*
- Referral via email*
- Referral via telephone call*
- Patient self-referral*
- Other (Please specify)*

Answer: Other - internal referrals through the Electronic Patient Record (EPR) system.

1.5. *Does this service provide care or outreach services for house bound patients?*

- Yes* - Royal Devon's Northern Services – please see response below.
- No* – Royal Devon's Eastern Services - please see response below.

Royal Devon's Northern Services: Yes, as per the LLTS SOP 3.3:
Population covered is any adult registered with a GP in Devon, including care home and nursing home residents requiring specialist treatment. For context this usually is represented by a joint visit with the appropriate Community Nursing Team to complete a full holistic assessment and advice and guidance regarding complex leg ulcer patients and their management.

Royal Devon's Eastern Services – No, there are no plans to extend service to housebound patients.

2. *Do you have a dedicated vascular service?*

(Vascular services are commissioned to provide diagnostics and treatment for vascular disease. The principal clinical specialities involved are vascular surgery and interventional vascular radiology. Such services provide care for the needs of patients with disorders relating to the arteries, veins, and lymphatic system)

- Yes*
- *No*
- *Other (Please specify)*

Answer: Yes.

If yes, please complete questions: 2.1 & 2.2

2.1. *If yes, is the vascular service a hub centre or specialist service? (please select all that apply)*

Hub centre: providing diagnostics and expert advice in an outpatient setting.

Specialist services: providing diagnostics and expert advice in an outpatient setting + providing elective and 24/7 emergency vascular services.

- *Hub Centre*
- Specialist service*
- *N/A*

Answer: Specialist service.

2.2. *Do you have a dedicated service for venous disease within the vascular service?*

- *Yes*
- *No*
- Other (Please specify)*

Answer: Other. All vascular disease under one service.

2.3. *If yes, is this delivered by a doctor or a nurse?*

Delivered by a medically trained doctor / surgeon

- *Nurse lead*
- *Other (Please specify)*

Answer: Delivered by a medically trained doctor / surgeon.