

## 17. Glossary of Terms

Angiogenesis:	The generation of new blood vessels in tissues
Autolysis:	The body's natural ability to debride dead tissue. Softening of dead cells brought about by enzymes in the cells themselves.
Collagen:	The main protein constituent of white fibrous tissue
Cellulitis:	A spreading infection into soft tissue.
Colonisation:	Multiplication of organisms without a corresponding host reaction
Contamination:	Presence of micro organism but without multiplication
Contraction:	A function of the healing process in granulating tissue whereby edges of the wound are drawn towards each other
Debridement:	The removal of devitalised tissue and foreign matter
Eczema:	Originates from the Greek word 'to boil over'. Features dry, itching, red and inflamed skin. The words eczema and dermatitis are synonymous. It affects 1 in 10 people in the United Kingdom it can be mild moderate or severe.
Epidermis	The outer layer of the skin, which forms a protective covering of the body. Comprising five layers, the epidermis constantly renews itself, with the bottom or germinative layer producing new cells and the top layer, stratum corneum, made up of dead cells which regularly worn off.
Epithelium	Is the tissue that covers the body surface, lines body cavities and forms glands
Epithelialisation	The final stage of the proliferative stage of tissue healing
Erythema	Redness of the skin due to hyperaemia
Eschar	A scab consisting of dried serum and devitalised dermal cells
Fibroblast	An immune collagen producing cell of connective tissue
Granulation:	The formation of new tissue filling the defect which takes place during, the proliferation phase of healing. The name is derived from the fact that the buds of new tissue take on the appearance of small granules.
Granulations:	Small masses of formative cells containing loops of newly formed blood-vessels which spring up over any raw surface, as the first step in the process of healing of wounds.
Haemostasis:	The termination of bleeding by mechanical or chemical means or by the complex coagulation process of the body, consisting of vasoconstriction, platelet aggregation, thrombin and fibrin synthesis.
Infection:	Micro-organisms are not only present but are multiplying and producing an associated host reaction. This may take various forms.

Maceration:	A softening or sogginess of the tissue owing to retention of excessive moisture. Often showing as white wet tissue.
Necrosis:	The local death of tissue. The tissue is often black /brown in colour and 'leathery 'in texture
Oedema:	The abnormal accumulation of fluid beneath the skin, or in one or more cavities in the body.
Pathogenic:	Disease-producing, and is a term for example, applied to bacteria, capable of causing disease
Slough:	Devitalised tissue which has a yellow/white/grey hue.
Vasoconstriction	Narrowing of the blood vessels which results in the blood flow to a particular part of the body being reduced. Cold will cause vasoconstriction of the vessels under the skin, reducing heat loss and shock due to injury or blood loss