

## 11. Guidelines for good practice in the management of wounds

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- Always employ an holistic approach to wound care: e.g. investigate any underlying problems
- Wounds should not be routinely cleansed, but if they require cleansing irrigation should be used
- Good hand hygiene and the use of Aseptic Non-touch technique (ANTT) must be practiced at all times
- Nutrition assessment in the form of a MUST score must be completed and acted upon
- It is essential that a date be set for reassessment of the wound and that any changes in treatment following reassessment should be recorded
- Wounds should not be left exposed or wrapped in a dressing towel. The action of dehydration and reduction in wound temperature is detrimental to wound healing
- A multidisciplinary approach must be taken in wound care
- A clear explanation of the action of certain types of dressings must be explained to the patient
- All dressings should be disposed of according to local waste disposal guideline
- All dressings must be prescribed
- Dressing used that are non-formulary products must have a non-exemption form completed
- **For any wound not progressing as anticipated consider referral to the Tissue Viability Team by using the appropriate referral process.**