

# Do you care for people with chronic wounds?

**Become a wound care champion and help improve wound care management to ensure the best outcomes for people with chronic wounds.**

Chronic wounds are one of the many complex health needs that occur for older people. There is a variety of experience and confidence in managing wounds amongst providers, yet all have an important role to play in the wound care team.

The Wound Care Champion activity is a guide to quality improvement and education activities designed to support nurses and other clinicians to develop their knowledge and skills for chronic wound management

The Wound Care Champion process has been developed in consultation with local RACH nurses and the NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation, however clinicians working in other settings can also use the tool

Support is available to help you work through the activity, and on completion you may be eligible for free ongoing face to face education and mentoring by a wound care educator.

To learn more about the process visit this link on the Healthy North Coast website [Become a Wound Care Champion](#). See overleaf for the Wound care HealthPathways that have been developed to provide best practice guidance on how to assess, manage and refer patients to local services in a timely manner.

## Health care champions can influence wound care outcomes for patients across a service by:

- Supporting measures to implement evidence-based clinical practice
- Using best practice guidelines and care protocols
- Using local referral pathways to escalate care and access specialist advice when needed
- Promoting wound care education resources, guidelines and referral pathways to colleagues

**Scan the QR code for more information**



# Wound care pathways

## **Hard to Heal Wounds**

- ▶ This pathway gives step-by-step guidance on how to assess and manage non-healing wounds. Detailing how to differentiate between different causes of wounds such as venous and arterial ulcers and what investigations to request. It also gives detailed management advice, including red flags and when to refer, how to clean and debride the wound and what dressings to use.
- ▶ Links to local referral options including Emergency Departments, Vascular Surgeons, Infectious Disease Specialists and Wound Clinics.

## **Skin Tears**

- ▶ This pathway outlines the assessment and management of patients with acute superficial skin tears.
- ▶ Includes referral information for local Wound Clinics and Emergency Departments.

## **Burn Injuries**

- ▶ This pathway details burn first aid treatment, assessment, initial management and ongoing management including how to debride the wound, how to treat burns according to depth and what creams and dressings to use.
- ▶ Includes referral advice, if care is needed outside your facility.

## **Specialist Burns Management**

- ▶ Includes referral criteria and referral information for regional burn units.

## **Wound Management Products**

- ▶ Wound management products can alter the wound environment and influence the wound bed to optimise healing.
- ▶ This pathway provides information on wound products according to required

function and wound appearance. It describes a wide range of wound products as well as negative pressure therapy.

## **Tetanus-prone Wound Management**

- ▶ This pathway describes how to determine if a wound is tetanus prone, and whether vaccination or other post-exposure prophylaxis is required.

## **Pressure Injury in Spinal Cord Injury**

- ▶ This pathway provides guidance for assessing and managing pressure injuries in patients with spinal cord injuries, including early identification of red flags, pressure relief strategies and wound care.
- ▶ It helps clinicians to recognise pressure injury risk in patients with SCI, implement preventative measures, and collaborate with other specialists for wound care and ongoing support, ensuring effective management.

## **Wound Management Nursing**

- ▶ This pathway lists the referral options for specialist wound management nurse-led clinics. It includes private wound care clinics for the mid and north coast region as well as the public community nursing, wound management, and high-risk foot clinics as well as service descriptions, eligibility criteria and how to refer.

## **Diabetes-related Foot Disease and Screening**

- ▶ This pathway provides guidelines for screening diabetic patients for foot issues such as ulcers and infections, helping clinicians to identify and address complications early for improved outcomes.
- ▶ It outlines the treatment steps for active foot conditions and when a referral to a specialist, allied health, or high-risk foot clinic, ensuring timely, collaborative care.