

## Leg Ulcer Lower Limb Recommendations Implementation

On Monday 5 December 2022, MFT will implement changes to pathways across community and inpatient teams to improve the delivery of leg ulcer care for our patients.

### **The MFT Group Deputy Chief Nurse, Alison Lynch explains:**

“We developed the MFT Wound Care Strategy in 2021, with an aspiration to improve outcomes for our patients who have both chronic and acute wounds. Part of our strategy included leading and influencing the implementation of lower limb recommendations across Manchester and Trafford. I am delighted with the work the teams have undertaken since the programme began in August 2021; it’s exciting to be at the point of launching the **Leg Ulcer Policy** on the [MFT intranet Policy Hub](#) and look forward to seeing improved outcomes for our patients who live with chronic leg ulcers.”

**The below frequently asked questions (FAQs) explain why action was needed, how we have identified the changes to be made, and what will be different for staff and patients.**

### Question 1: Why is this happening?

- The cost of wound care in England is high and rapidly increasing; too few patients are receiving evidence-based care, too many wound care pathways are poorly organised, and there is a lack of data and information to inform quality improvement.
- There is unwarranted variation in MFT wound care services and this offers a major opportunity to improve healing rates and thus reduce patient suffering, spend on inappropriate and ineffective treatments and the amount of clinical time spent on wound care.
- The NHS England funded National Wound Care Strategy Programme (NWCSP), as part of its mission to improve wound care, has worked with clinicians from across England to develop lower limb wound care recommendations (LLRs). You can find out more on the [National Wound Care Strategy website](#).
- In 2021, MFT was chosen to be one of the first organisations to implement the LLRs. The MFT FIMPS Programme has enabled changes to the way we work to align with the LLRs. We are now ready to launch these changes in leg ulcer care across the Trust.

### Question 2: What has the FIMPS Programme team done so far?

- We have spent time with clinical leads and teams to understand current pathways
- We have reviewed and standardised all clinical documentation in use
- We have completed a leg ulcer patient survey, clinical audit, and staff skills survey

- We have co-developed a new Trust-wide leg ulcer pathway with clinical leg ulcer specialists, tissue viability nurses, vascular surgeons, vascular specialist nurses, and representatives of the north, central and south Manchester, and Trafford nursing teams in workshops over the last nine months
- Now the team is ready to launch the new leg ulcer pathway and associated documentation

**Julie Mullings, Community IPC/TV Lead Nurse explained that:**

"Collaborative working has been the key driving force in the successful implementation of the Lower Limb Recommendations (LLR).

"The local and national work has put a positive spotlight on lower limb care and has been integral in standardising evidence-based practise across the Trust."

**Question 3: What will launch on Monday 5 December 2022 and how can I access the information?**

The new MFT Leg Ulcer Policy will launch on this date and be available from the MFT Intranet Policy Hub. The policy itself will contain the below related resources.



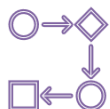
MFT Leg Ulcer Policy



Vascular Referral forms



Leg Ulcer Integrated Care Pathway



Community and Inpatient Leg Ulcer Referral, Assessment, and Treatment Algorithms



Leg Ulcer Patient Information Leaflet

**Question 5: What are the main changes to the leg ulcer pathway?**

- Introduction of Red Flags - Available in Leg Ulcer Policy Appendix 6
- Application of Class 1 British Standard (14-17 mmHg) hosiery if no red flags present
- Requirement to complete a Doppler within 2 weeks of referral
- Requirement to complete Doppler within 2 weeks of the application of Class 1 British Standard hosiery
- In line with national guidance, the expected duration of a holistic assessment should be 1 hour 30 minutes
- The holistic assessment now includes nutrition and pressure ulcer risk assessment
- Patients should complete a Quality-of-Life Questionnaire every four weeks, conditional change and on healing
- Access to different compression systems and promotion of supported self-management

- There is a new Community Leg Ulcer Referral, Assessment, and Treatment Algorithm
- Guidance on completing a Toe Brachial Pressure Index (TBPI) Assessment
- Provision of a Decisions Against Advice (DAA) Form for compression therapy for venous leg ulceration

#### Question 6: How does this affect me?

##### Community setting

- From **Monday 5 December 2022**, in community settings the new MFT Leg Ulcer Integrated Care Pathway should be used for all new leg ulcer patients and follow the Community or Inpatient Leg Ulcer Referral, Assessment, and Treatment Algorithm as appropriate
- For community staff, clinical wound care documents will be available to order through the usual processes
- All current information for patients that is given out should be replaced by the MFT Venous Leg Ulcer Leaflet (Order Reference: CM19758)

#### Question 7: What will come next?



Wound care education and training model



Business cases to level up Leg Ulcer Specialist services across Manchester and Trafford



Trust Leg Ulcer Formulary

**The Manchester and Trafford Local Care Organisations Head of Adult Nursing, Alex Barker, described the programme as:**

“An excellent piece of work that will reduce variation and improve outcomes for patients. By healing these wounds there will be better patient experience and a reduced workload for staff.”

#### Question 8: What support will be available?

- A new Wound Care Training Model is in development with new e-learning modules already available on the MFT Learning Hub and revised face-to-face training dates to follow
- Clinicians should refer to the **MFT Leg Ulcer Policy** for further details and guidance. This will be available from the MFT Policy Hub (staff intranet) on **Monday 5 December 2022**
- Any queries related to the new documentation or pathway can be raised with the **Tissue Viability Team or leg ulcer specialist nurses** - contact the main office on 0161 215 2055 to be sign posted to the most appropriate person to assist you