

Pathway:	Leg Ulcer
Referral Criteria/Commissioning position:	
<p><i>Referral if appropriate:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to vascular surgeon: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ if ABPI<0.8 (urgent if ABPI<0.5) for assessment of arterial disease ○ if patient may benefit from venous surgery • Refer to dermatology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ if ulcer failing to progress at 3 months and not healed at 12 months ○ if suspected vasculitic ulcer ○ under 2 week rule if suspected malignant ulcer ○ if diagnosis uncertain • Refer to general surgery: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ if patient may benefit from skin grafting • Refer urgently to Diabetic clinic/podiatry any foot ulcer in a patient with diabetes <p>'Red Flags' symptoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exclude malignancy if ulcer not healing after 12 weeks. • Bleeding, overgrowth at edge of ulcer and unusual sites are suggestive of malignancy • Consider pyoderma gangrenosum or vasculitic ulcer if purple raised edge, painful, unusual site and associated underlying conditions <p>Investigations prior to referral</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABPI measurement to exclude arterial disease and ensure safe to use compression • Skin swab only if infection suspected 	
Information to include in referral letter:	
<p><i>The GP referral letter should contain:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How long ulcer has been there • What treatments have been tried and for how long • The appearance of the ulcer edge e.g. shallow, punched out • The base of the ulcer e.g. granulating sloughy • The site of the ulcer e.g. medial, lateral, anterior, posterior • A photograph is desirable • ABPI measurements • Relevant past medical/surgical history • Current regular medication • BMI • Smoking status • Alcohol consumption 	
References & Additional information:	
<p><u>Patient Information Leaflets/ PDA</u> http://www.patient.co.uk/health/Venous-Leg-Ulcers.htm</p>	

References

Very good information and pictures by Primary Care Dermatology Society
<http://www.pcds.org.uk/clinical-guidance/leg-ulcers>

Lots of information describing the different types and causes of ulcers and management. <http://www.dermnetz.org/site-age-specific/leg-ulcers.html>

Good practical management of leg ulcers and when to refer on patient.co.uk website
<http://www.patient.co.uk/doctor/leg-ulcers#ref-2>

CCG GP sign off:	SRCCG Business Committee (Delegated to Dr Greg Black)
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