

## The Assessment and Management of Bacterial Loading in Wounds (AMBL2) Tool

	Treat Topically (See Overleaf)		Treat Topically + Systemically (See Overleaf)		
	<p><b>Local Wound Bed Infection</b> Microorganisms present and multiplying. Patient immune response compromised with delayed healing</p>		<b>+ Spreading Infection (Cellulitis)</b>	<b>+ Systemic Patient Infection</b>	<b>STAY ALERT to: Wound Biofilm</b>
	<b>Primary (Covert) Symptoms</b>	<b>Progressive (Overt) Symptoms</b>			
<b>Tissue</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friable Hyper/granulation tissue</li> <li>• Pocketing in granulation</li> <li>• Wound Static (&lt;40cm<sup>2</sup> reduction in 6 weeks)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Necrosis/Slough may be present</li> <li>• Wound deterioration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wound breakdown/dehiscence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess for SEPSIS</li> <li>• Malaise</li> <li>• General deterioration</li> <li>• Loss of appetite</li> <li>• Fever/Pyrexia</li> </ul>	Wound not responding as expected with two or more cycles of the AMBL2 treatment plan (overleaf). Progress to <b>Biofilm Wound Management Pathway</b> .
<b>Moisture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing exudate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purulent exudate</li> <li>• Increasing malodour</li> </ul>			
<b>Peri-wound edges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <sup>1</sup>Erythema associated with inflammation may or may not be present</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <sup>1</sup>Erythema &lt;2cm around wound margin</li> <li>• Swelling</li> <li>• Warmth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <sup>1</sup>Spreading erythema &gt;2cm peri wound margins</li> </ul>		
<b>Pain/Systemic Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New or increasing Pain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New or increasing Pain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swollen lymph glands</li> <li>• Skin blistering/breakdown</li> <li>• Oedema</li> </ul>		

<sup>1</sup> Consider varying clinical presentations in individuals of different skin tones i.e., skin discoloration; skin temperature; tenderness or hardening of the skin.

<sup>2</sup> Note high risk patients (including those with Diabetes or compromised immune/circulatory systems) may not display symptoms of local wound bed and/or progressive infection described and may present with more subtle signs.

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The following should be achieved as part of the overall wound bed preparation strategy:

- Treat/optimize co-existing morbidities and Patient
- Debride sloughy/necrotic tissue if safe to do so as part of a holistic assessment
- Manage exudates effectively: see Exudate Management Pathway for guidance
- Re-assess wound site at each dressing change, recording outcomes
- Optimize peri-wound margin/skin care
- Wound Cleansing/ANNT Surgical Technique at every dressing change

## LOCAL WOUND BED INFECTION

Two Week Therapy:

- Routine Wound swab not indicated here
- Vigorous cleansing of the wound bed and peri-wound skin with dressing pack gauze and tap water (wounds >48 hours)
- 1<sup>st</sup> line Topical Honey
- 2<sup>nd</sup> line Iodoflex or Iodosorb  
(see formulary for contraindications and dosing)
- Pain Management
- Wound Dressing changes minimum every 3 days

## RESOLVED

Continue with consistent Wound Bed Preparation Practices.  
Use suitable dressing from formulary. Continue to monitor for any signs of recurring infection.

## SPREADING/SYSTEMIC INFECTION

- Treat the wound bed as per **Local wound bed infection**
- Swab wound for microorganism sensitivities
- Request Antibiotics from GP/Medical Prescriber
- Provide patient education: Action to take if symptoms worsen

## SYMPTOMS ARE PERSISTING OR RECURRING

If symptoms persist or recur following completion of 2 or more treatment cycles following the AMBL2.

**Suspect Wound Biofilm: assess wound site and commence management using the Biofilm Wound Care Pathway (BWCP).**

World Union of Wound Healing Societies (WUWHS) (2020) The role of non-medicated dressings for the management of wound infection. London: Wounds International. Available at: [www.woundsinternational.com](http://www.woundsinternational.com) (accessed: 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021); International Wound Infection Institute (IWII) (2022) Wound Infection in Clinical Practice. Wounds International.

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