

First Aid Skin Tear Pathway

1. If the resident/ patient develops a skin tear, follow the clinical pathway below and apply appropriate first aid treatment. For further support, contact Telemedicine.
2. Telemedicine will support you through the pathway below and signpost your resident for on-going care and support.
3. For further training and support please contact your Tissue Viability Team.

Skin at risk



Skin at risk

Mature skin is more vulnerable and prone to skin tears.

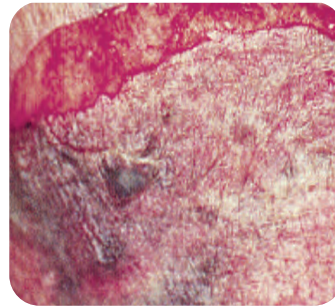
Type 1



No skin loss

Linear or flap tear that can be repositioned to cover wound bed.

Type 2



Partial flap loss

Partial flap loss that cannot be repositioned to cover the wound bed.

Type 3



Total flap loss

Total flap loss exposing entire wound bed.

Recommended Products

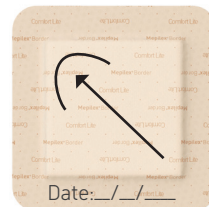
Emollient



Mepilex® Border Comfort Lite



Mepilex® Border Comfort Lite

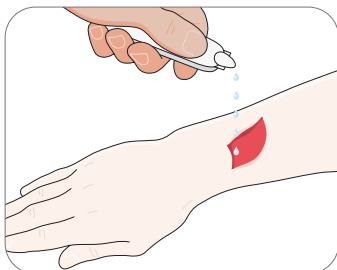


Mepilex® Border Comfort

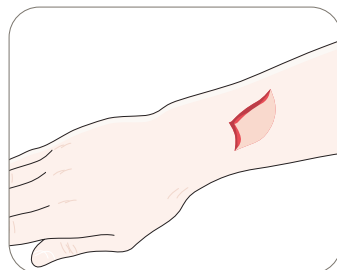


Dressing removal should occur from the base of the arrow and peel in the direction of the remaining skin flap.

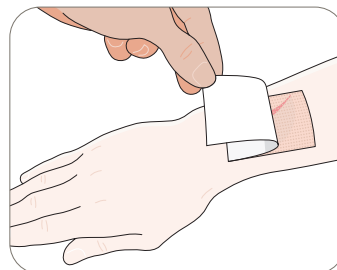
Application Guide



1. Gently cleanse the wound according to local protocol.



2. Approximate wound edges, classify the wound, measure and document.



3. **Mepilex® Border Lite** to be applied to Type 1 and Type 2 skin tears.
Mepilex® Border Comfort to be applied to Type 3 skin tears.



Time to change: Up to 7 day wear time. However, a dressing change should be considered once the exudate spreads past the zone highlighted in red.

If you observe changes in the wound or surrounding skin such as increased redness, swelling, odour, pain or heat, please assess the wound and refer to local protocol.

References:

1. Le Blanc, K. et al. (2013) International Skin Tear Advisory Panel: A tool kit to aid in the prevention, assessment and treatment of skin tears using a simplified classification system. AdvSkin Wound Care, October, 459-476. Developed by Mölnlycke in collaboration with Bradford District Care.

Following a call from the care home for support with skin tears, please ask the following questions:

1. Do they have appropriate stock?

If no If no refer to unplanned team and request the care home book first aid skin tear training, using information below.

2. Is there anyone on duty who has had the Skin tear training who can follow the pathway and apply dressing?

If no refer to Unplanned Community Nurse Team

If yes give appropriate advice around monitoring and refer for a planned Community nurse visit with a date.