

WOUND CARE FOR ULCERS AND NON-POST OPERATIVE WOUNDS BY SR ANNETTE ANDERSON (M.CUR)

Some open wounds require specialised treatment by a wound care specialist which is a registered nurse (nursing sister) who is trained in the assessment, management, of diverse types of wound care treatment. She will be able to assess the wound and initiate the best treatment.

Wound care for leg ulcers might include compression bandaging over and above normal wound care to assist with wound healing.

Wound care for diabetic ulcers is tricky to treat at the best of times, and specialised wound care products will increase the potential of the wounds closing successfully.

Large gaping wounds with high exudate (leaking wounds), might benefit from negative pressure vacuum therapy. This VAC treatment is extremely useful in large wounds to assist with rapid closure but may be contraindicated in certain vascular wounds.

Advanced wound care sisters are also registered with Medical Aid Schemes as private practitioners and they can motivate for wound care to come from special funds in lieu of hospitalization.

Your doctor will refer you to an advanced wound care specialist if necessary. They will continue wound care, updating your medical aid for funding and notifying Dr Anderson if they are concerned. It is important that you keep these visits to ensure rapid wound healing.

