



## Guidelines to Competency for Health Professionals Caring for Patients with Lower Limb Ulceration

1.0	Professional Practice	Standard 1, 2 & 3
1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Practices in accordance with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).</li><li>Complies with legislation standards codes and regulation governing each speciality practice. <a href="http://www.ahpra.gov.au/">http://www.ahpra.gov.au/</a> August 2010</li></ul>	
1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Provides a comprehensive assessment of the individual, their lower limb, the wound and the healing environment;</li><li>Performs a risk assessment analysis early intervention and appropriate referral as required.</li></ul>	
1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Identifies unsafe practise and has the ability to respond appropriately.</li></ul>	
2.0	Intellectual skills-knowledge and understanding	Standard 2 & 6
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Has a comprehensive understanding of:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The anatomy and physiology of the vessels in the lower leg;</li><li>The aetiology of lower leg ulceration;</li><li>Management strategies for leg ulceration.</li></ul></li></ul>	
2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Is able to perform a comprehensive vascular assessment of the lower limb;</li><li>Is able to differentiate between arterial, venous and other causes of lower limb ulceration;</li><li>Has the ability to identify risk factors associated with the development of lower limb ulceration;</li><li>Can identify best practise related to wound care choices.</li></ul>	
2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Assists individuals to make health care decisions related to the impact of their management interventions.</li></ul>	
2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Communicates strategies appropriate to the individual.</li></ul>	
2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Identifies the psychosocial impact of lower leg ulceration.</li></ul>	

3.0	Management of Lower Limb Ulceration	Standard 2 & 7
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Locates and utilises best available research.</li> </ul>	
3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Can safely apply compression bandaging systems and hosiery when indicated.</li> </ul>	
3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Utilises information technology systems within Health Care Service for wound documentation and other related equipment.</li> </ul>	
3.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Initiates systems for the evaluation of the provision of leg ulcer services.</li> </ul>	
3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Monitors and evaluates treatment outcomes.</li> </ul>	
4.0	Collaborative practise	Standard 1 & 2
4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promotes effective communication between other health professionals and clients.</li> </ul>	
4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Shares decision making with other health care professionals.</li> </ul>	
4.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recognises own limitations in relation to caring for clients with lower leg ulceration and seeks advice.</li> </ul>	
4.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Liases with relevant community and health care agencies on order to maintain continuity of care.</li> </ul>	

Based on:

- Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council, National Competency Standards for the Nurse Practitioner, Registered and Enrolled Nurse;
- Standards for Wound Management 1<sup>st</sup> edition (2002). Australian Wound Management Association Inc.