



**AWMA MODULE ACCREDITATION**

**ModuleTHREE : Assessment and Management of Lower Leg Ulcers**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Intended learning outcomes of MODULE**

Completion of an AWMA accredited 'Assessment and Management of Lower Leg Ulcers' module provides opportunities for health professionals to develop and demonstrate knowledge, understanding, skills and other attributes in the following areas:

**Intellectual skills-knowledge and understanding**

Upon completion of an AWMA accredited 'Assessment and Management of Lower Leg Ulcers' module, it is anticipated that the participant will demonstrate a knowledge of :

1. The anatomy and physiology of the vessels in the lower leg.
2. The causes and pathophysiology of leg ulceration.
3. The epidemiology of leg ulceration and its impact on health service provision.
4. Management strategies for leg ulceration including; wound management, pain management, skin care, compression-bandages/hosiery/ intermittent and preventative interventions including surgery.
5. Evidence based guidelines available for the prevention of and management of leg ulceration and associated skin changes.
6. The organisation of leg ulcer services and the interdisciplinary team.

**Practical Skills—Skills and Attributes**

Upon completion of an AWMA accredited 'Assessment and Management of Lower Leg Ulcers' module, it is anticipated that the participant will be able to:

1. Appropriately assess and document the care of a patient with lower leg wounds.
2. Accurately assess the wound and surrounding skin.
3. Make effective treatment decisions, initiate further investigations as required and identify when to seek further specialist intervention or help from other health professionals.
4. Safely and effectively apply compression bandages and hosiery.
5. Monitor and evaluate treatment outcomes.
6. Identify the psychosocial impact of lower leg ulceration.
7. Evaluate the provision of leg ulcer services.

## MODULE CONTENT CHECKLIST

Indicate inclusion of educational content by placing a tick in column A.

Indicate, where applicable, reasons for content not included by inserting a code (1-5)\* in column C.

*Note more than one code can be used.*

\*Codes are listed on page 5.

Inclusion <b>(A)</b>	Educational Content <b>(B)</b>	Reasons why content not included in course (Insert code 1-5)* <b>(C)</b>
	<b>Overview / epidemiology</b> - Introductory unit content plus:	
	Incidence and prevalence data for leg ulcers and associated conditions.	
	Causes of leg ulceration including – venous, arterial, mixed, post cellulitic, neoplasm.	
	<b>Anatomy of the lower limb</b> – Introductory unit content plus:	
	Vascular - arteries, veins, capillaries.	
	<b>Pathophysiology</b> – Introductory unit content plus:	

	Vascular – macro-circulation, DVT, valve incompetence, micro-circulation, arteriosclerosis, vasculitis.	
	Venous hypertension / insufficiency, lipodermatosclerosis, atrophe blanche.	
	<b>Principles of patient care</b> (Covered in Introductory unit content)	
	<b>Assessment</b> – Introductory unit content plus:	
	General assessment process – person, limb, wound and skin.	
	Vascular assessment - palpation lower limb pulses, ankle brachial pressure index.	
	<b>Risk factor / Disease Management</b>	
	Identification and management of risk factors/indicators for likelihood of development of leg ulcers-DVT, phlebitis, oedema, eczema, smoking, lipodermatosclerosis, hypertension, Peripheral Vascular Disease etc.	
	Protection from injury: eg protective devices/clothing.	

	Management of venous disease- compression bandaging/hosiery, pneumatic compression, encouragement of mobility, reduction of oedema.	
	Management of arterial/mixed disease- modified compression, skin care and surgery.	
	<b>Wound Management</b> (Covered in Introductory unit content)	
	<b>Management of Infection</b> (Covered in Introductory unit content)	
	<b>Specialist Interventions</b>	
	Vascular Investigations- Duplex Scanning, Photoplethysmography.	
	Surgical techniques in arterial/venous disease- amputation.	
	<b>Leg ulcer services</b>	
	Structure and Management- care at home, outpatient clinics, outreach services.	
	Integrated community and secondary care teams.	
	Inter-disciplinary, multi-professional team approach, patient involvement in care.	
	<b>Psychosocial aspects of care</b> (Covered in Introductory unit content)	

Code	*Reasons why content not included in course
1	Learners have prior knowledge
2	Content considered irrelevant
3	Lack of time to teach this content
4	Lack of expertise to teach this content
5	Other reasons (please specify below)