



# Wound Swabs!

Do **NOT** swab the wound if the wound is:

- A chronic ulcer
- Pressure Ulcer
- Wounds older than one month
- Sinus or fistula
- Stoma site

The above wounds will be colonised with the patient's own flora or environmental organisms. Swabs from these wounds will always have growth! Therefore these wounds should **NOT** be swabbed or treated with antibiotics unless systemically indicated. Treatment of these cases will result in emergence of antibiotic resistance.

**ONLY** take a swab if:

- Evidence of spreading cellulitis
- Clinical signs of infection for example raised temperature, raised WCC

Further advice on management of an infected wound can be obtained from:

- Podiatry via Trakcare
- Vascular Nurse via Trakcare
- Tissue Viability Nurse via Trakcare