



The Association for the Advancement of Wound Care  
**Quality of Care Wound Glossary**

| <b>Wound Word</b>         | <b>Definition</b>   | <b>Item Content Validation Index Number (Polit Formula)</b> |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Abrasion                  | The removal of the epidermis or upper dermis through an external mechanical force, such as friction or trauma.  | 0.964   |
| Abscess                   | A defined collection of purulent fluid which forms in tissue as a result of acute or chronic localized infection frequently surrounded by inflamed tissue, and swelling | 0.964   |
| Acute Wound               | A wound that is following a predicted pattern that should result in complete healing  | 0.957   |
| Adherence at wound edge   | Continuity of wound edge and the base of the wound, indicating active epithelial resurfacing over a granulating tissue bed.   | 0.769   |
| Adherent Materials        | Debris or biologic matter (such as eschar, foreign particles, dirt, bacteria, etc.) which obscure the wound bed and impede the process of wound healing.                | 0.778   |
| Allograft                 | A graft of tissue or cells between individuals of the same species but of different genotype to fill a wound defect; also called a homograft                            | 1.000   |
| Alopecia                  | Absence of hair or hair follicles from skin areas where it normally is present  | 1.000   |
| Angiogenesis              | The migration, proliferation, differentiation, and budding of endothelial cells to create new vasculature   | 0.964   |
| Antiphospholipid Syndrome | A hypercoagulable state that is associated with recurrent arterial and/or venous thrombosis, repeated fetal loss, and/or elevated antiphospholipids                     | 0.792   |
| Area                      | See Wound Measurement - Area  |   |
| Arterial Ulcer            | A wound which results from inadequate arterial blood supply or flow. Frequently, these wounds are located on the distal extremities                                     | 1.000   |



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| Aspirate                                      | As a verb – to draw in or out by suction or negative pressure; as a noun, it is the wound fluid, which is removed from the wound via suction or negative pressure.  | 0.893   |
| Autograft                                     | A graft of tissue or cells derived from the same organism that is receiving it.   | 1.000   |
| Autolysis                                     | The separation of non-viable from viable tissue through the natural disintegration or liquefaction of the devitalized tissue.   | 0.962   |
| Autolytic Debridement - see Debridement types | See debridement types -- Autolytic debridement  | 0.864   |
| Avascular                                     | Tissue lacking in blood vessels or having a poor or limited blood supply. Tissue may be naturally occurring, such as cartilage, or may be devitalized, necrotic or nonviable due to illness, ischemia or injury   | 1.000   |
| Basal   | Pertaining to or situated near a base. In the skin this is the most interior cell layer of the epidermis from which all other layers evolve   | 1.000   |
| Basement movement                             | The extracellular matrix layer that separates epithelium from the underlying tissue.  | 0.926   |
| Bioburden                                     | The amount of bacteria existing in or on the wound surface  | 0.962   |
| Biofilm                                       | A population(s) of microorganisms that are attached to the wound surface and are typically surrounded by an extracellular polymeric matrix (glyocalyx). In wounds these accumulations are often difficult to remove and eradicate; thereby, hindering wound repair. | 0.926   |
| Bioengineered tissue grafts                   | Single or-multiple layer structures constructed from living tissue  |   |



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|                                  | derived from one or more skin cells, such as dermal fibroblasts and /or epidermal keratinocytes. These grafts are intended for application to an open wound surface   | 1.000   |
| Biologic dressing                | Tissue derived from a living source used to cover an open wound   | 0.852   |
| Blanchable erythema              | A reddened area of the skin that temporarily turns white or pale when pressure is applied. Once the pressure is relieved or removed, it returns to its previous reddened color.   | 0.963   |
| Blanching                        | A temporary whitening of the skin due to transient ischemia, typically seen when testing for integrity of the capillary refill system   | 0.962   |
| Bleb(s)                          | An irregularly shaped elevation of the epidermis by underlying fluid. Blebs can vary in size from less than 1 cm to 10 cm and may contain serous, seropurulent or bloody fluid.   | 0.923   |
| Blisters                         | A detachment of the overlying epidermis from the dermis which is often marked by clear or pink / red fluid accumulation in the detached epidermis, between these two skin layers.   | 0.964   |
| Bruise – see ecchymosis          | See Ecchymosis  |   |
| Burn                             | Tissue injury resulting from excessive exposure to thermal, chemical, electrical, or radioactive agents. The effects vary according to the type, duration, and intensity of the agent and the part of the body involved. The effects may be local, resulting in cell injury or death, necrosis of the skin and underlying tissue, and may involve primary or secondary shock. | 1.000   |
| Burn Classification: Superficial | Damage limited to the outer layer of the epidermis with an erythematous (red) appearance and no vesiculation (blisters). Previously known as a first degree burn.   | 1.000   |



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| Burn Classification: Superficial/Deep partial thickness | Damage extending through the epidermis into the dermal layer. As depth of the dermal injury progresses, tissue injury can range from erythema (redness) to vesiculation (blistering) but is not of sufficient extent to interfere with the regeneration of the epidermis. Previously known as a second degree burn. | 1.000   |
| Burn Classification: Full thickness                     | Destruction of epidermal and dermal layers with extension, at the minimum, into subcutaneous tissue. Tissues may be charred or coagulated. Previously known as a third degree burn.   | 1.000   |
| Calf Pump   | The mechanism that assists venous return from the calf. It occurs when the calf muscle contraction compresses the leg veins, pushing the blood toward the heart   | 0.963   |
| Calciphylaxis   | A disorder, generally found in end stage renal disease (ERSD), but not limited to renal patients, with widespread calcification of small and medium sized vessels, which leads to occlusion, thrombosis, and tissue necrosis. Extreme cases can be life-threatening.  | 1.000   |
| Callus  | A common, usually painless thickening of the stratum corneum at locations of repeated, external pressure or friction.   | 0.964   |
| Capillary Closing Pressure                              | The pressure at which a capillary will be closed or occluded by external pressure   | 0.962   |
| Capillary fragility                                     | Injury to superficial capillaries resulting in small hemorrhaging into adjacent tissue  | 0.808   |
| Capillary refill  | A clinical test of distal arterial capillary flow. The clinician presses on the skin of the distal phalange (toe or finger) holding for 1 second, then releasing, timing the return of normal skin color. Normal capillary refilling time is less than 3 seconds.   | 1.000   |



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| Cellulitis             | Inflammation of cellular (epidermal and dermal) or connective tissue usually accompanied by local warmth, pain, swelling, and possibly fever.   | 0.963   |
| Cellulitis (advancing) | A progressive cellular inflammation, moving distal to proximal, associated with pain, increased temperature, and swelling of tissue.  | 0.926   |
| Chemotaxis             | Directed migration of cells toward a chemical stimulus.   | 0.893   |
| Chondritis             | Inflammation of cartilage (i.e. sometimes witnessed in ear burns or in arthritic joints).   | 0.958   |
| Chronic Wound          | <p>A wound that experiences a physiological delay through any of the normal, orderly, sequential phases of healing. The wound may be categorized as a delayed healing or non-healing chronic wound.</p> <p>A delayed chronic healing wound does not progress through a pre-defined healing pattern due to neglect, misdiagnosis, inappropriate treatment or the inability to obtain or appropriately use necessary resources in caring for the wound. A delayed healing chronic wound may deteriorate to a non-healing wound</p> <p>A non-healing chronic wound is a wound that does not progress through a pre-defined healing pattern due to underlying concurrent disease states and co-morbidities that cannot be corrected or ameliorated.</p> | 1.000   |
| Cicatrix               | Fibrous tissue formed during the healing process; commonly  | 0.786   |



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|                      | known as a scar   |   |
| Clean Wound          | A wound free of devitalized tissue, purulent drainage, foreign material or debris.  | 0.964   |
| Clock Positions      | Use of the hour hands of a clock to denote locations of undermining, tracts, or tunneling. The wound is the center of the clock with the body in anatomical position. The direction of the head is 12 o'clock, the feet 6 o'clock, and 9 and 3 o'clock are the lateral aspects or sides of the wound. | 1.000   |
| Closed Wound Edges   | See Epibole   |   |
| Closed Wound         | A wound is completely covered with epithelium.  | 0.964   |
| Collagen             | A fibrous insoluble protein found in the connective tissue, including skin, bone, ligaments, and cartilage, and representing about 30 percent of the total body protein.  | 1.000   |
| Collagenase          | A protease which degrades collagen  | 0.963   |
| Colonization         | Microorganisms residing in the wound bed that do not impact the health or healing of the wound  | 1.000   |
| Compression Therapy  | The application of a bandage, garment or device, whose purpose is to decrease venous hypertension and interstitial edema, assisting in venous return. It may also be used to remodel hypertrophic scarring (i.e. burns and plastic surgery).  | 1.000   |
| Compression Stocking | Elastic stocking or garment which provides external pressure on an upper or lower extremity to aid venous return, reduce edema or remodel hypertrophic scarring.  | 1.000   |
| Compression Wrap     | Elastic or non-elastic wrap which is applied to provide external pressure on an upper or lower extremity to aid venous return,  | 1.000   |



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|                    | reduce edema or reduce hypertrophic scarring.   |   |
| Contamination      | Presence of bacteria, other microorganisms, or foreign material present on, but not imbedded in the wound.  | 1.000   |
| Contraction        | The process whereby the edges of a full thickness wound are drawn toward the center during the healing process, resulting in reduction in open wound surface area. This process is mediated by myofibroblasts.  | 1.000   |
| Contracture        | The shrinkage of a scar through maturation of collagen; a condition of fixed high resistance to passive elongation of a connective tissue   | 0.889   |
| Crater             | Tissue defect extending at least to the subcutaneous layer.   | 0.889   |
| Crust              | Dried secretions, exudates, and dead cells covering a wound.  | 0.963   |
| Cryofibrinogenemia | The presence of plasma complex fibrin, fibrinogen, and fibronectin in the blood, which reversibly precipitates at cold temperatures, potentially leading to vessel occlusion and tissue necrosis in any organ.  | 0.923   |
| Cryoglobulinemia   | The presence of high levels of immunoglobulins in the blood which reversibly precipitates at cold temperatures. Aggregates of this protein can cause vessel occlusion in any organ, leading to tissue necrosis. Highly associated with hepatitis C infection. | 0.962   |
| Cyanosis/Cyanotic  | A blue or purplish discoloration of the skin indicating insufficient oxygenation of the blood.  | 1.000   |
| Cytokine           | Small molecular weight proteins produced by a cell that act as a messenger to regulate inflammation and production of matrix metalloproteases.  | 1.000   |



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| Cytokine/growth factor replacement | The application of human growth factor, either in pharmaceutical form or as a processed autologous product to a wound surface with the intention of stimulating or accelerating wound/ulcer healing.   | 0.880   |
| Dead Space                         | An area of tissue loss leaving a defect, cavity or tract.  | 0.962   |
| Debridement                        | Removal of devitalized tissue, cellular debris and any foreign matter from the wound.  | 0.962   |
| Debridement- Conservative Sharp    | Removal of loose avascular tissue above the level of viable tissue using a scalpel, curette, or scissors. This procedure does not require the administration of general anesthesia but may require local anesthesia.   | 1.000   |
| Debridement- Excisional Sharp      | Removal of devitalized tissue to or into the level of viable tissue by a sharp instrument, laser or selective device. This procedure may require the administration of local or general anesthesia.  | 1.000   |
| Debridement-Autolytic              | A natural physiologic process. Autolytic debridement uses the body's own white blood cells and proteolytic, fibrinolytic and collagenolytic enzymes to soften and break down necrotic tissue. It is a selective form of debridement that results in natural degradation of devitalized tissue. The body's white blood cells and local bacteria release enzymes into the wound site where they liquefy the necrotic tissue. | 1.000   |
| Debridement - Enzymatic/Chemical   | Removal of devitalized tissue from the wound base through an externally applied chemical or enzyme. Debridement may be selective or nonselective, depending on the chemical or enzyme used.  | 1.000   |
| Debridement – Mechanical           | The use of a mechanical external force to remove, separate or  |   |



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|                             | break the adhesive forces between the necrotic tissue and the base of the wound. Mechanical methods of debridement include wound scrubbing, removal of wet-to-dry dressings and varied forms of hydrotherapy, such as high pressure irrigation, pulsatile lavage, whirlpool, and low frequency ultrasound. | 1.000   |
| Debridement- Selective      | Any type of debridement which removes only nonviable tissue or foreign matter from the wound.  | 1.000   |
| Debridement - Non-selective | Any type of debridement which indiscriminately removes both viable and nonviable tissue.   | 1.000   |
| Debris                      | Remains of damaged cells, tissue, or foreign matter in the wound bed.  | 0.960   |
| Decubitus                   | A Latin word referring to the reclining position; a misnomer and outdated term for a pressure ulcer.   | 0.880   |
| Dehiscence                  | Separation of surgically approximated layers of an operative wound.  | 1.000   |
| Demarcation                 | Having a visible, defined line of separation between viable and nonviable tissue.  | 1.000   |
| Denuded                     | Loss of epidermal skin layers.   | 0.958   |
| Depth                       | See Wound Measurement – Depth.   |   |
| Dermal                      | Related to the skin or dermis.   | 0.920   |
| Dermatitis                  | Inflammation of the skin; can cause itching, redness, and skin lesions.  | 0.958   |
| Dermis                      | The layer of skin lying beneath the epidermis. It contains blood vessels, connective tissue, nerves, lymphatics, sebaceous glands, and hair follicles.   | 1.000   |
| Desiccation                 | An undesirable drying condition that impedes the wound healing   | 0.923   |



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|                     | process.   |   |
| Desquamation        | The normal sloughing of the outer layer of dead epidermal cells at the surface.  | 0.963   |
| Deterioration       | Wound breakdown, enlargement, or deviation from normal healthy color, texture, exudate or features characteristic of its current stage of healing.   | 0.962   |
| Devitalized Tissue  | Nonviable tissue.  | 1.000   |
| Diabetic foot ulcer | Wound on the foot of a diabetic individual. About 60-70% is associated with loss of protective sensation, caused by pathology commonly associated with the disease, such as peripheral neuropathy. | 0.923   |
| Diapedesis          | The process of cellular migration from an intravascular to an extravascular space.   | 0.846   |
| Differentiation     | A change in cell morphology and/or structure changing cell function, typically from a less specialized to more specialized function.   | 0.852   |
| Distal              | Farthest from the center, from a medial line or from the trunk. Opposite of proximal.  | 0.963   |
| Donor Site          | Area from which skin is taken for use as a skin graft elsewhere on the body.   | 1.000   |
| Dorsal              | Pertaining to the extensor or back side. The opposite of ventral, plantar or flexor side.  | 1.000   |
| Drainage            | See Exudate.   |   |
| Ecchymosis          | Skin discoloration (usually black blue, purple or other color) caused by infiltration or effusion of blood from blood vessels into the skin or subcutaneous.                                       | 1.000   |



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| Eczema            | Acute or chronic inflammatory conditions of the skin, typically erythematous, edematous, papular, vesicular, and crusting; it is followed often by lichenification and scaling, occasionally by change of the erythematous area to a dusky color, and infrequently by hyperpigmentation.  | 1.000   |
| Edema             | The presence of abnormally large amounts of fluid in the intercellular or interstitial tissue spaces.   | 1.000   |
| Edema-Non-Pitting | Skin that is stretched and shiny due to fluid accumulation, with hardness of the underlying tissues that is not displaced by pressure applied by a finger after five seconds.   | 1.000   |
| Edema-Pitting     | Edema in which a depression (pitting) results after pressure has been applied to edematous or swollen tissue. Once pressure is removed, the depression slowly disappears.   | 0.962   |
| Edges             | <p>Description of the junction of intact skin and the open wound.<br/>           Further described as:</p> <p>Indistinct, diffuse= Unable to clearly distinguish wound outline.</p> <p>Attached=Even or flush with wound base, no sides or walls present; flat.</p> <p>Not attached=Sides or walls are present; floor or base of wound is deeper than edge.</p> | 0.960   |



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|                        | <p>Rolled under, thickened=Soft to firm and flexible touch.</p> <p>Hyperkeratosis=Callous-like tissue formation around wound &amp; at edges.</p> <p>Fibrotic =Scarred, hard, rigid to touch</p> |   |
| Elasticity             | The quality of returning to original size and shape after compression or stretching.  | 1.000   |
| Elastin                | A fibrous and stretchy protein that gives elasticity to tissue that is significant in the healing cascade.  | 1.000   |
| Electrical Stimulation | The application of an electrode to provide AC/DC electrical current to transfer energy to a wound to promote wound healing.   | 0.923   |
| Electrolytes           | Ionized salts in blood, tissue fluids and cells.  | 0.963   |
| Endothelial Cells      | The flat cells that line the blood and lymphatic vessels, the heart, and various other body cavities.   | 1.000   |
| Enzyme                 | A protein that acts as a catalyst to induce chemical changes in other substances.   | 0.962   |
| Epibole                | The upper edges of the epidermis roll to envelop the basement membrane or lower edges of the epidermis, so that epithelial migration does not occur at wound edges.                             | 0.870   |
| Epidermis              | Outermost layer of skin consisting of five layers of differentiating epithelial cells whose primary type is the keratinocyte.   | 1.000   |
| Epithelial Tissue      | New white or pink, shiny epidermal tissue that grows in from wound edges or grows upward from surviving hair follicles or sweat ducts.  | 0.963   |



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| Epithelialization    | The stage of wound healing where epidermal cells proliferate and migrate across the surface of the wound from the wound margins and the remaining hair follicles. These cells are pink or white at the wound edges or in islands over granulation tissue. | 1.000   |
| Epithelized          | Total or complete covering of wound bed with epithelial cells.  | 1.000   |
| Erythematous         | See Erythema.   |   |
| Erythema             | A redness of the skin caused by dilation or congestion of capillaries in lower layer of skin due to injury, infection, inflammation, or hyperemia.  | 1.000   |
| Eschar               | Thick leathery black, brown, or gray necrotic devitalized tissue on the surface of a wound. It may be firmly adhered or partially separated from surrounding viable wound margins.  | 1.000   |
| Escharotomy          | An incision made through devitalized eschar to allow for decompression of the underlying muscle compartments, vasculature and nerves.   | 1.000   |
| Excision             | See Debridement – Excisional Sharp  |   |
| Excoriation          | Disruption of the epidermis or dermis caused by scratching, abrasion, chemical or thermal injury.   | 0.962   |
| Extracellular        | Pertaining to the space that exists outside of cells.   | 1.000   |
| Extracellular matrix | A non-cellular combination of fibrous and non-fibrous material that is part of connective tissue. The matrix supports the formation of granulation tissue and blood vessels. The fibrous portion is comprised of collagen, elastin, and reticulin.        | 1.000   |
| Exudate              | Any fluid released from a tissue or its capillaries, usually due to injury or inflammation. It is characteristically high in protein and white blood cells.   | 1.000   |



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| Exudate - Serous                  | Clear wound fluid which leaks out through cell membranes and blood vessels.  | 1.000   |
| Exudate – Sanguinous              | Bloody wound drainage with little, if any, serous fluid.   | 1.000   |
| Exudate Serosanguinous/Hemoserous | Blood-stained wound fluid; when serous fluid mixes with blood; red/pink.   | 1.000   |
| Exudate – Purulent                | A product of inflammation that is characterized by a creamy, viscous wound fluid primarily composed of polymorphonuclear leukocytes and liquefied necrotic debris. It is usually pale yellow to yellow green, sometimes whitish, or sometimes bloody. It is typically associated with infection, but may be sterile. | 1.000   |
| Exudate - Amount                  | A subjective measurement of the amount of wound drainage. Typically described as scant, minimal, moderate or copious assessed at the time of dressing change   | 0.883   |
| Exudate - None/No Drainage        | Dry wound tissues with no drainage that stains the dressing during routine dressing changes.   | 1.000   |
| Exudate - Scant /Small            | Wound tissues moist with drainage evenly distributed in the wound, ranging from minimal measurable exudate up to 25% of the dressing being covered with exudate. Exudate is fully controlled with routine dressing changes   | 0.962   |
| Exudate – Moderate                | Wound drainage that has met the limit of the dressing's absorptive ability without saturating or leaking during routine and appropriately timed dressing changes. Drainage may or may not be evenly distributed in wound; drainage covers 25% to less than 75% of the dressing.                                      | 0.923   |
| Exudate - Large/Copious           | Wound exudate that saturates a dressing during a routine   |   |



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|                   | dressing change intervals and is considered uncontrolled. Drainage is freely expressed and may or may not be evenly distributed in wound. Drainage covers more than 75% of dressing  | 0.962   |
| Factitious        | Self-induced or inflicted damage to a wound.   | 0.883   |
| Fascia            | A network of connective tissue<br>Superficial – thin connective tissue surrounding the subcutaneous fat located beneath the dermis<br>Deep Fascia – Dense fibrous connective tissue that surrounds the muscles, bones, nerves and blood vessels  | 1.000   |
| Fasciotomy        | Incision through the fascia.   | 1.000   |
| Fibrin            | A whitish, insoluble protein rich exudative film formed by the action of thrombin on fibrinogen. It is the basis for the clotting of the blood.  | 1.000   |
| Fibrinolysis      | Breakdown of fibrin.   | 0.962   |
| Fibroblasts       | A cell responsible for connective tissue synthesis in the dermis. These cells are attracted to the wound site (chemotaxis) where they proliferate, migrate, attach, contract, synthesize and extrude collagen producing the matrix through which new blood vessels will grow to make and contract and remodel granulation and scar tissue. | 1.000   |
| Fibronectin       | Complex molecules whose function is to bind cells that help stabilize the attachment of the extracellular matrix.  | 1.000   |
| Fibroplasia       | The formation of fibrous tissue as occurs in the healing of wounds.  | 0.923   |
| Fibrosis          | Excessive scar formation in a tissue or organ.   | 1.000   |
| Fissure           | Any cleft or groove, normal or otherwise, in tissue or an organ. In  |   |



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|                         | wound care, it refers to a crack-like break in the skin.  | 1.000   |
| Fistula                 | An abnormal passage or communication, between an internal organ and the surface of the body, or from one internal organ to another. Further defined by starting and ending location (e.g. enterocutaneous).   | 1.000   |
| Fluctuance              | Wavelike motion, indicative of the presence of fluid, used to describe the appearance (or feel) of the wound or periwound tissue.   | 0.920   |
| Friction                | The force of resistance between two surfaces rubbing together, which may lead to wearing away of tissue, or separation of tissue layers.  | 0.960   |
| Full thickness          | Tissue damage involving total loss of epidermis and dermis and extending, at the minimum, into the subcutaneous tissue and possibly through the fascia, muscle or bone.   | 1.000   |
| Gangrene                | Necrosis due to obstruction, loss or diminution of blood supply; it may be localized to a small area or involve an entire extremity or organ.   | 0.958   |
| Gangrene - Dry Gangrene | Tissue necrosis in which the involved part is dry, sharply demarcated and shriveled; usually due to slowly occlusive vascular disease   | 1.000   |
| Gangrene - Gas Gangrene | Tissue necrosis occurring in a wound infected with various anaerobic spore-forming bacteria, especially Clostridium Perfringens and Clostridium Novyi, which cause rapidly advancing crepitation of the surrounding tissues (due to gas liberated by bacterial fermentation), and constitutional toxic and septic symptoms including cytotoxic damage to kidney, liver, and | 0.960   |



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|                           | other organs.  |   |
| Gangrene - Wet Gangrene   | Moist or draining ischemic necrosis of an extremity with bacterial putrefaction, producing cellulitis adjacent to the necrotic areas.  | 0.920   |
| Glycosaminoglycans        | Complex extracellular matrix of molecules that are composed of a protein core with multiple polysaccharide side chains   | 0.826   |
| Granulation Tissue        | Tissue that is pink/red and moist, composed of new blood vessels, connective tissue, fibroblasts, and inflammatory cells that fill a healing wound. Typically, appearing with an irregular, bumpy or granular surface.   | 1.000   |
| Granulocytes              | A granular leukocyte, also a polymorphonuclear leukocyte. (Includes neutrophil, eosinophil, or basophil).  | 1.000   |
| Growth Factors            | A subclass of cytokines (proteins) that stimulate proliferation, movement, maturation, and biosynthetic activity of cells.   | 1.000   |
| Hemosiderin               | The iron-containing pigment carried by the red blood cell (RBC). When RBC's leak into the tissue of patients with permeable vessels, they break down and leave hemosiderin behind, which causes a characteristic brown pigmentation, commonly seen in patients with venous hypertension. | 1.000   |
| Hyperbaric Oxygen therapy | The systemic, intermittent administration of oxygen at a concentration greater than 20% delivered under pressure   | 0.840   |
| Hypergranulation          | Granulation tissue that is bulbous and friable suggesting heavy bacterial bioburden. Frequently raised above the level of the periwound skin, it may also be seen in wound base, below the periwound surface.  | 0.960   |
| Hyperkeratosis            | Thickening of the stratum corneum often associated with a qualitative abnormality of the keratin. Commonly presents as a   | 1.000   |



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|                               | callus.   |   |
| Immunosuppressive             | Acting to suppress the body's immune response to an antigen.  | 1.000   |
| Indolent                      | Inactive; not developing; slow to heal, little or no pain.  | 0.833   |
| Induration                    | Abnormal hardening of tissue, especially the skin and the superficial fascia, caused by congestion, edema and/or inflammation.  | 1.000   |
| Infection                     | The presence of bacteria or other microorganisms in sufficient quantity to damage tissue or impair healing. Wounds are often classified as infected when the wound tissue contains 100,000 (10 <sup>5</sup> ) or greater microorganisms per gram of tissue, but the diagnostic specificity and predictive validity of this parameter is less than optimal. The best standard remains the clinical signs and symptoms of infection including purulent exudate, odor, erythema, warmth, tenderness, edema, pain, fever, and elevated white cell count. Clinical signs of infection may not be present in the immunocompromised patient, the patient with poor perfusion, or the patient with a chronic wound. | 1.000   |
| Infection – Clinical Systemic | The presence of bacteria or other microorganisms in sufficient quantity to overwhelm the tissue defenses and produce the inflammatory signs of infection e.g. purulent exudate, odor, erythema, warmth, tenderness, edema, pain, fever, and elevated white cell count. Examples of clinical infections that extend beyond the margins of the wound include cellulitis, advancing cellulitis, osteomyelitis, meningitis, endocarditis, septic arthritis, bacteremia, and sepsis.   | 1.000   |
| Infection - Clinical Local    | A clinical infection that is confined to the wound which or   |   |



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|                           | presents with erythema and induration within 2 cm of its margins.  | 1.000   |
| Inferior                  | Used medically in reference to the under surface of an organ or indicating a structure below another structure.  | 1.000   |
| Inflammation              | A localized protective response of the body to irritation, injury or destruction of tissue that can be acute or chronic involving increased blood flow and capillary permeability. Cardinal signs of inflammation include redness, heat, swelling, and pain. | 1.000   |
| Inflammation – Acute      | A self-limiting inflammation that occurs following tissue injury. This may be diminished or absent in immunosuppressed patients.   | 0.885   |
| Inflammation – Chronic    | A localized protective but abnormally prolonged biologic response elicited by injury or destruction of tissues that serves to destroy, dilute, or wall off both the injurious agent and the injured tissue.  | 1.000   |
| Infrared Therapy          | A form of radiant energy that provides superficial dry heat.   | 0.917   |
| Intact (Skin)             | Undamaged epidermis and dermis.  | 1.000   |
| Intermittent Claudication | Pain in the lower extremities secondary to poor arterial blood flow. Occurs during exercise, abates with rest.   | 1.000   |
| Interstitial              | Relating to or situated in the small, narrow spaces between tissues or parts of an organ.  | 1.000   |
| Intracellular             | Pertaining to that space within a cell.  | 1.000   |
| Ischemia                  | Deficiency of blood supply caused by constriction or obstruction, of a blood vessel to tissue leading to cellular damage. If not alleviated, may lead to tissue necrosis.  | 1.000   |
| Keloid                    | Excessive scar formation elevated above the plane of the skin and extending beyond the boundary of the original wound,   | 1.000   |



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|                      | resulting in a raised, firm, thickened scar that may grow for a prolonged period of time, more frequently seen in dark pigmented skin.  |   |
| Keratin              | The protein that is the principal component of the outermost epidermis and of acellular hair and nails.   | 0.962   |
| Keratinization       | The process by which the epidermis forms its outer protective layer, the stratum corneum  | 0.962   |
| Keratinocyte         | An epidermal cell that synthesizes keratin.   | 0.962   |
| Lesion               | Any change in the function or structure of tissue due to disease or injury.   | 0.960   |
| Lesion – Linear      | Structural damage to the skin occurring in a line or band-like configuration.   | 1.000   |
| Lesion - Primary     | Primary lesions are physical changes in the skin considered to be caused directly by the disease process.   | 1.000   |
| Lesion – Satellite   | A similar, smaller skin disorder located near a primary lesion.   | 0.960   |
| Lesion – Secondary   | May evolve from primary lesions, or may be caused by external forces such as scratching, trauma, infection, or the healing process. The distinction between a primary and secondary lesion is not always clear. | 0.960   |
| Lichenification      | Hardening and thickening of the skin resulting from long and heightened irritation.   | 0.917   |
| Lipedema             | A congenital disorder of lipid metabolism most often seen in females that occurs during puberty manifested by abnormal distribution of fat and hyperplasia of fat cells.  | 1.000   |
| Lipodermatosclerosis | Induration of the tissues with the replacement of dermis and subcutaneous fat by fibrosis. Seen on the lower extremity as an  | 1.000   |



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|                        | end stage phenomenon of venous insufficiency.  |   |
| Livedo reticularis     | A net-like non-blanchable pattern of pigmentation on the skin, associated with vasculitis, microthrombic disorders, and cholesterol crystal embolization.  | 1.000   |
| Lymphedema             | Due to obstruction of the lymphatics, an abnormal accumulation of protein-rich fluid in the interstitium, causing chronic inflammation and reactive fibrosis of the affected tissues clinically presenting as edema.                               | 1.000   |
| Lymphedema - Primary   | A condition caused by congenital defect in lymphatic system.   | 0.960   |
| Lymphedema - Secondary | A common condition that occurs as a result of damage to the lymphatics.  | 0.960   |
| Lymphocytes            | Lymph cell or white blood corpuscle without cytoplasmic granules, normally comprising 20 to 50 percent of total white blood cells.   | 0.962   |
| Maceration             | The changes and subsequent disintegration of skin resulting from prolonged exposure to moisture. Tissue changes frequently appear white.   | 0.960   |
| Macrophage             | Cells of the reticuloendothelial system that have the ability to phagocytize bacteria and devitalized tissue and to release growth factors essential for wound healing. They are found in loose connective tissues and various organs of the body. | 0.960   |
| Macule                 | Discolored spot or patch in the skin, neither elevated nor depressed.  | 0.960   |
| Mast Cells             | Immune cells that reside in the tissue and contain heparin and histamine in their granules. Mast cells degranulate and initiate  | 1.000   |



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|                       | defense mechanisms during injury or infection.  |   |
| Melanin               | The dark amorphous pigment of the skin  | 1.000   |
| Melanocyte            | The cell responsible for the synthesis of melanin.  | 0.913   |
| Monocytes             | A relatively large mononuclear leukocyte (16-22 mcm in diameter), that normally constitutes 3-7% of the leukocytes of the circulating blood and found in the lymph nodes, spleen, bone marrow, and loose connective tissue.   | 1.000   |
| Monofilament testing  | A screening perception test using specialized weighted filaments designed to determine the presence or absence of protective sensation. In wound care it is used to determine risk for neuropathic foot ulceration.   | 0.960   |
| Myocutaneous Flap     | A procedure that moves a muscle combined with a portion of overlying skin with an intact vascular supply to cover an open wound.  | 1.000   |
| Myofibroblast         | A fibroblast having smooth muscle characteristics; believed to be involved in wound contraction.  | 1.000   |
| Nasolabial            | Pertaining to the nose and lip or the area between them.  | 0.917   |
| Necrobiosis Lipoidica | An inflammatory skin disorder of unknown etiology, most common in women in the third and fourth decades of life. 50-70% of patients have diabetes mellitus, however, 3-11% of diabetics develop the disorder. Characterized by central yellow-brown atrophy with telangiectasias and possible ulceration, surrounded by a red-brown border. Occurs most commonly in the anterior tibial region. | 0.957   |
| Necrosis              | The local death of tissue. Tissue may be black, brown, yellow, green or white and represents devitalized tissue.  | 1.000   |



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| Necrotic Tissue                    | Tissue that has died and has therefore lost its usual physical properties and biological activity. Also called devitalized tissue.  | 1.000   |
| Necrotic – <i>Eschar</i>           | Firmly adherent, hard, black, firm, leathery tissue, maybe strongly or loosely attached to wound base and edges.  | 0.960   |
| Necrotic - Fibrinous Tissue/Slough | A metabolic byproduct that is composed of serum and matrix proteins; may be white, yellow, tan, brown or green. It may be loose or firmly adherent and it has a stringy or fibrous texture and appearance.  | 1.000   |
| Neovascularization                 | The outgrowth of new blood vessels budding from endothelial cells of existing blood vessels.  | 1.000   |
| Negative Pressure Wound Therapy    | Application of sub-atmospheric pressure to a wound using a variety of forms: electrical pump, wall suction, bulb suction or applied vacuum. The therapy may be applied by continuous, intermittent, low or high pressures and is used to assist in extracting drainage, microorganisms as well as stimulating granulation and contraction in a wound. | 1.000   |
| Neuropathic Ulcer                  | A wound or ulceration forming secondary to the effects of deficits in peripheral, sensory, motor and autonomic nervous systems; often has delayed or abnormal healing.  | 0.960   |
| Neuropathy                         | Impaired function of the sensory, motor, and/or autonomic nerves, resulting in decreased sensation, bony deformities, and loss of perspiration.   | 1.000   |
| Neutrophil                         | A polymorphonuclear (having many lobes in its nucleus) white blood cell, among the earliest inflammatory cells to arrive at a site of injury. It is abundant and actively phagocytic.   | 0.960   |



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| Nonblanchable Erythema                | A red area of the skin that persists when fingertip pressure is applied and released.   | 1.000   |
| Non-granulating                       | Absence of granulation tissue; wound surface appears smooth as opposed to granular. For example, in a wound that is clean but non-granulating, the wound surface appears smooth and red as opposed to berry-like.   | 0.960   |
| Non-viable                            | See Necrotic  |   |
| Oasis-C                               | A comprehensive assessment tool utilized in the United States home healthcare system to develop a plan of care and define payment in the home health setting.   | 0.870   |
| OASIS–C<br>Early/ Partial Granulation | In the comprehensive US home healthcare system assessment tool, this is defined as 25% of the wound bed is covered with granulation tissue; there is minimal avascular tissue (i.e., <25% of the wound bed is covered with avascular tissue); may have dead space; no signs or symptoms of infection; wound edges open. | 0.917   |
| OASIS –C<br>Fully Granulating         | In the comprehensive US home healthcare system assessment tool, this is defined as a wound bed filled with granulation tissue to the level of the surrounding skin or new epithelium; no dead space, no avascular tissue; no signs or symptoms of infection; wound edges are open.                                      | 0.917   |
| OASIS – C<br>Non- Healing             | In the comprehensive US home healthcare system assessment tool, this is defined as a wound with $\geq$ 25% avascular tissue OR signs/symptoms of infection OR clean but non-granulation wound bed OR closed/hyperkeratotic wound edges OR persistent failure to improve despite appropriate comprehensive wound         | 0.917   |



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|                               | management.   |   |
| Odoriferous                   | Having an odor, smell or fragrance.   | 0.920   |
| Offloading modalities         | The use of devices to spread weightbearing forces over a greater surface area allowing blood flow to promote healing and/or prevent injury. See "Support surfaces - Physical Concepts – Pressure Redistribution". | 0.957   |
| Osteomyelitis                 | Infection of the bone marrow and adjacent bone.   | 0.920   |
| PAD                           | An abbreviation for peripheral arterial disease, secondary to atherosclerosis.  | 0.960   |
| Papillary                     | Pertaining to or resembling a papilla, or nipple-like structure. The superficial layer of the dermis is called papillary dermis because its interface with the epidermis resembles this structure.                | 0.960   |
| Papule                        | Red elevated area on the skin, solid and circumscribed less than 5mm.   | 1.000   |
| Partial thickness tissue loss | Skin loss confined to epidermal and possibly dermal skin layers; damage does not penetrate below the dermis.  | 0.960   |
| Pathogen                      | Any disease-producing microbial or infective agent.   | 1.000   |
| Petechia                      | A minute reddish or purplish spot containing blood that appears in skin or mucous membrane as a result of localized hemorrhage  | 1.000   |
| Phagocytosis                  | The engulfing of microorganisms, other cells, and foreign particles by cells such as neutrophils or macrophages, which are called phagocytes when engaged in this activity.                                       | 1.000   |
| Phototherapy                  | The use of radiant energy, or light therapy, for healing purposes.  | 0.960   |
| Pigmentation                  | Coloration with or deposition of molecules or materials that add color.   | 0.960   |
| Pliable                       | Supple, flexible.   | 0.923   |



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| Posterior                  | Near to or at the back of the body.  | 0.920   |
| Pressure Redistribution    | See "Support surfaces - Physical Concepts – Pressure Redistribution".  |   |
| Pressure Ulcer             | A pressure ulcer is localized injury to the skin and/or underlying tissue usually over a bony prominence, as a result of pressure, or pressure in combination with shear and/or friction. A number of contributing or confounding factors are also associated with pressure ulcers; the significance of these factors is yet to be elucidated. Previously called decubitus ulcer or bedsore.                               | 1.000   |
| Pressure Ulcer - Stage I   | Intact skin with non-blanchable redness of a localized area usually over a bony prominence. Darkly pigmented skin may not have visible blanching; its color may differ from the surrounding area. The area may be painful, firm, soft, warmer or cooler as compared to adjacent tissue. Stage I may be difficult to detect in individuals with dark skin tones. May indicate "at risk" persons (a heralding sign of risk). | 1.000   |
| Pressure Ulcer - Stage II  | Partial thickness loss of dermis presenting as a shallow open ulcer with a red pink wound bed, without slough. May also present as an intact or open/ruptured serum-filled blister. Presents as a shiny or dry shallow ulcer without slough or bruising. This stage should not be used to describe skin tears, tape burns, perineal dermatitis, maceration or excoriation.   | 1.000   |
| Pressure Ulcer - Stage III | Full thickness tissue loss. Subcutaneous fat may be visible but bone, tendon or muscles are not exposed. Slough may be present but does not obscure the depth of tissue loss. May include undermining and tunneling. The depth of a stage III  | 1.000   |



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|   | pressure ulcer varies by anatomical location. The bridge of the nose, ear, occiput and malleolus do not have subcutaneous tissue and stage III ulcers can be shallow. In contrast, areas of significant adiposity can develop extremely deep stage III pressure ulcers. Bone/tendon is not visible or directly palpable.   |   |
| Pressure Ulcer - Stage IV                     | Full thickness tissue loss with exposed bone, tendon or muscle. Slough or eschar may be present on some parts of the wound bed. Often include undermining and tunneling. The depth of a stage IV pressure ulcer varies by anatomical location. The bridge of the nose, ear, occiput and malleolus do not have subcutaneous tissue and these ulcers can be shallow. Stage IV ulcers can extend into muscle and/or supporting structures (e.g., fascia, tendon or joint capsule) making osteomyelitis possible. Exposed bone/tendon is visible or directly palpable. | 1.000   |
| Pressure Ulcer - Unstageable                  | Full thickness tissue loss in which the base of the ulcer is covered by slough (yellow, tan, gray, green or brown) and/or eschar (tan, brown or black) in the wound bed. Until enough slough and/or eschar is removed to expose the base of the wound, the true depth, and therefore stage, cannot be determined. Stable (dry, adherent, intact without erythema or Fluctuance) eschar on the heels serves as "the body's natural (biological) cover" and should not be removed.   | 1.000   |
| Pressure Ulcer - Suspected deep tissue injury | A purple or maroon localized area of discolored intact skin or blood-filled blister due to damage of underlying soft tissue from pressure and/or shear. The area may be preceded by tissue that is painful, firm, mushy, boggy, warmer, or cooler as compared.   | 1.000   |



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| Primary Intention                   | The mechanical approximation of wound edges (e.g., sutures, adhesive strips, staples, etc.) to achieve closure.  | 0.962   |
| Proliferation                       | Cell division or mitosis. In wounds, forming new cells within the granulation tissue that populate or secrete the extracellular matrix to replace lost or damaged tissue.  | 0.962   |
| Protease                            | An enzyme that hydrolyzes proteins.  | 1.000   |
| Proximal                            | Nearest the center, midline, point of attachment or point of origin, opposite of distal.   | 1.000   |
| Pruritus                            | Severe itching.  | 1.000   |
| Pulsed Electromagnetic Field (PEMF) | The non-contact transfer of electrotherapeutic energy through pulsed electromagnetic fields creating radio frequency signals that are delivered through coils, used to augment cellular repair.  | 0.950   |
| Pulsed Lavage with Suction          | A form of mechanical pressurized pulsating irrigation used for wound cleansing and debridement. The pressurized irrigation is used to cleanse and debride, while the suction collects and contains the residual irrigation fluid and debris.                           | 1.000   |
| Punched-out Appearance              | An ulcer having sharply demarcated borders typically associated with arterial insufficiency.   | 0.960   |
| Purpura                             | Deep purple discoloration of the skin secondary to bleeding into the tissue. The presence of palpable purpura, in which the purpuric areas are indurated and can be palpated, indicates bleeding into the skin with inflammation. This is a common sign of vasculitis. | 0.792   |
| Purulent Discharge/Drainage         | A product of inflammation that is characterized by a creamy, viscous fluid primarily composed of polymorphonuclear leukocytes and liquefied necrotic debris. It is usually pale yellow   | 1.000   |



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|                      | to yellow green, sometimes whitish, sometimes bloody, and it is typically associated with infection.  |   |
| Pus                  | See Purulent drainage.  |   |
| Putrefaction         | Decomposition of organic matter, especially proteins, by the action of bacteria and fungi, resulting in the formation of foul smelling compounds.   | 1.000   |
| Pyoderma gangrenosum | A poorly understood ulcerative skin disorder. In 40-50% of cases, there is no associated disease. Commonly starts as a painful red papule, pustule, nodule, and/or bulla, which subsequently ulcerates. Ulcer has necrotic, purulent base with an undermined red-purple border. | 1.000   |
| Raynaud's Phenomenon | Episodic digital ischemia secondary to exaggerated reflex sympathetic vasoconstriction. The "Phenomenon" is associated with other conditions, such as autoimmune disorders.   | 1.000   |
| Reactive Hyperemia   | An increased amount of blood in the skin, as a response to increased metabolic need   | 0.900   |
| Rete Pegs/Ridges     | A network of ridges forming the epidermal-dermal junction   | 0.958   |
| Reticular            | Pertaining to or resembling a net; often used to describe the deeper layer of the dermis  | 0.917   |
| Rolled Edges         | See Epibole   |   |
| Rubor of dependency  | A test of the arterial system to determine the adequacy of arterial flow in the lower extremity by evaluating color changes in the skin during both elevation and dependency with a positive test being reactive hyperemia. A classic sign of arterial insufficiency.           | 1.000   |
| Sacral               | The area overlying the sacrum, at the base of the spine   | 1.000   |
| Sanguineous          | See Exudate   |   |



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| Scab                        | An outmoded term used to describe coagulum, or dry clotted blood. See crust.   | 0.880   |
| Scar                        | See Cicatrix.  |   |
| Sensate Flap                | A procedure that moves muscle, skin, and a sensory nerve to a new position on or in the same patient's body. The sensory nerve provides feeling to the flap.   | 1.000   |
| Sepsis                      | The presence of pathogenic organisms or their toxins, in the blood or tissues causing systemic symptoms.   | 1.000   |
| Sequential Compression Pump | Mechanical pump with a sleeve that is applied to an extremity and exerts pressure in distal to proximal fashion to compress an extremity and propel accumulated back fluid toward the heart.   | 0.960   |
| Seroma                      | A contained or encapsulated collection of serum or plasma within a wound.  | 0.920   |
| Serosanguineous             | See Exudate –types.  |   |
| Shear                       | A mechanical force applied horizontally or parallel to a surface causing tissue layers to slide against each other. It may result in disruption of blood vessels and separation of tissue layers.  | 1.000   |
| Sickle Cell Disease         | An inherited disorder resulting in abnormal hemoglobin structure (Hgb S) which functionally limits capacity of the blood to carry oxygen.  | 0.875   |
| Sinus Tract                 | Course or path of tissue destruction occurring in any direction beneath the surface or edge of the wound. It can be distinguished from undermining by the fact that a sinus tract involves a small portion of the wound edge whereas undermining involves a significant portion of the wound edge. Sometimes | 0.960   |



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|                             | called a tract or tunneling.  |   |
| Skin Equivalent             | A material used to cover open tissue that acts as a substitute for nascent (beginning) dermis and epidermis and that has at least some of the characteristics of human skin (e.g., amniotic tissue, xenografts, human allografts).  | 1.000   |
| Skin Flap                   | A procedure that moves a section of skin and associated subcutaneous tissue from one part of the body to another, with the vascular supply maintained for nourishment. The vascular attachment can be the original vessel, rotated along the flap; changed from one part of the flap to another; or reestablished by microvascular anastomosis once it has been placed in the new location. | 1.000   |
| Skin Graft                  | A procedure that moves a segment of dermis and a portion of epidermis. The graft is completely separated from its blood supply and donor site and moved to a recipient site. Skin grafts contain varying portions of dermis and epidermis and can be partial or full thickness.   | 1.000   |
| Skin Graft - Allograft      | A graft derived from a genetically dissimilar individual of the same species.   | 0.960   |
| Skin Graft - Autograft      | A procedure that moves a segment of dermis and a portion of epidermis from one site to another in the same individual.  | 1.000   |
| Skin Graft - Full thickness | Skin graft consisting of superficial and deep layers of the skin: (i.e., epidermis and dermis).   | 1.000   |
| Skin Graft - Mesh Graft     | A skin graft mechanically expanded after excision to cover a larger surface area than is otherwise possible, usually has a cross-hatched or meshed appearance.  | 0.960   |



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| Skin Graft - Split thickness   | Skin graft consisting of the epidermis and part of the thickness of the dermis; also called partial-thickness graft or split-skin graft.   | 1.000   |
| Skin Graft – Xenograft         | A graft derived from a species different from that receiving it.   | 1.000   |
| Skin tear                      | Traumatic peeling away of the epidermis from the dermis.   | 1.000   |
| Slough                         | See Necrotic tissue type.  |   |
| Spinosum                       | Cellular layer or epidermis having spinous projections   | 0.917   |
| Squamous Cell Carcinoma        | A malignant cancerous growth that arises from epithelial cells and has a cuboid appearance. When arising within a chronic ulcer, it is commonly referred to as Marjolin's Ulcer. | 0.957   |
| Stasis Ulcer                   | See Venous ulcer.  |   |
| Stratum Corneum                | Outermost layer of the epidermis.  | 1.000   |
| Subcutaneous                   | Beneath the skin. Serves as a reservoir for fat and provides temperature insulation and shock absorption.  | 1.000   |
| Support surfaces – Reactive    | A powered or non-powered support surface with the capability to change its load distribution properties only in response to applied load.  | 1.000   |
| Support surfaces – Active      | A powered support surface, with the capability to change its load distribution properties, with or without applied load.   | 1.000   |
| Support surfaces – Integrated  | A bed frame and support surface that are combined into a single unit whereby the surface is unable to function separately.   | 1.000   |
| Support surfaces – Non-powered | Any support surface not requiring or using external sources of energy to operate.  | 1.000   |
| Support surfaces – Powered     | Any support surface requiring or using external sources or energy to operate.  | 1.000   |
| Support surfaces – Overlay     | An additional support surface designed to be placed directly on top of an existing surface.  | 1.000   |



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| Support surfaces – Mattress          | A support surface designed to be placed directly on the existing bed frame.   | 0.960   |
| Support surfaces - Air               | A low density fluid with minimal resistance to flow.  | 0.880   |
| Support surfaces – Cell/Bladder      | A means of encapsulating a support medium.  | 0.880   |
| Support surfaces – Viscoelastic Foam | A type of porous polymer material that conforms in proportion to applied weight. The air exists and enters the foam cells slowly which allows the material to respond slower than standard elastic foam. (Memory foam). | 0.958   |
| Support surfaces – Elastic Foam      | A type of porous polymer material that conforms in proportion to the applied weight. Air enters and exits the foam cells more rapidly, due to greater density. (Non-memory)   | 0.958   |
| Support surfaces – Closed Cell Foam  | A non-permeable structure in which there is a barrier between cells, preventing gases or liquids from passing through the foam.   | 0.960   |
| Support surfaces – Open Cell Foam    | A permeable structure in which there is no barrier between cells and gases or liquids can pass through the foam.  | 0.960   |
| Support surfaces – Gel               | A semisolid system consisting of a network of solid aggregates, colloidal dispersions or polymers which may exhibit elastic properties.   | 0.960   |
| Support surfaces – Pad               | A cushion-like mass of soft material used for comfort, protection or positioning.   | 0.792   |
| Support surfaces – Viscous Fluid     | A fluid with a relatively high resistance to flow of the fluid.   | 0.880   |
| Support surfaces – Elastomer         | Any material that can be repeatedly stretched to at least twice its original length; upon release the stretch will return to approximately its original length.   | 0.880   |



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| Support surfaces – Solid                                       | A substance that does not flow perceptibly under stress. Under ordinary conditions retains its size and shape.  | 0.920   |
| Support surfaces – Water                                       | A moderate density fluid with moderate resistance to flow.  | 0.920   |
| Support Surfaces – Features-Air Fluidized                      | A feature or a support surface that provides pressure redistribution via a fluid-like medium created by forcing air through beads as characterized by immersion and envelopment.                    | 0.960   |
| Support Surfaces – Features-Alternating Pressure               | A feature of a support surface that provides pressure redistribution via cyclic changes in loading and unloading as characterized by frequency, duration, amplitude, and rate of change parameters. | 0.960   |
| Support Surfaces – Features-Lateral Rotation                   | A feature of a support surface that provides rotation about a longitudinal axis as characterized by degree of patient turn, duration, and frequency.  | 0.960   |
| Support Surfaces – Features-Low Air Loss                       | A feature of a support surface that provides a flow of air to assist in managing the heat and humidity (microclimate) of the skin.  | 0.960   |
| Support Surfaces – Features-Zone                               | A segment with a single pressure redistribution capability.   | 0.920   |
| Support Surfaces – Features-Multi-zoned surfaces               | A surface in which different segments can have different pressure redistribution capabilities.  | 0.960   |
| Support surfaces - Physical Concepts – Frictional Force        | The resistance to motion in a parallel direction relative to the common boundary of two surfaces.   | 0.920   |
| Support surfaces - Physical Concepts – Coefficient of Friction | A measurement of the amount friction existing between two surfaces.   | 0.913   |
| Support surfaces - Physical Concepts – Envelopment             | The ability of a support surface to conform, so to fit or mold around irregularities in the body.   | 0.917   |



The Association for the Advancement of Wound Care

**Quality of Care Wound Glossary**

| <b>Wound Word</b>  | <b>Definition</b>  | <b>Item Content Validation Index Number (Polit Formula)</b> |
|--|--|---|
| Support surfaces - Physical Concepts – Fatigue                 | The reduced capacity of a surface or its components to perform as specified. This change may be the result of intended or unintended use and/or prolonged exposure to chemical, thermal, or physical forces. | 0.917   |
| Support surfaces - Physical Concepts – Force                   | A push-pull vector with magnitude (quantity) and direction (pressure, shear) that is capable of maintaining or altering the position of a body.  | 0.870   |
| Support surfaces - Physical Concepts – Immersion               | Depth of penetration (sinking) into a support surface.   | 0.917   |
| Support surfaces - Physical Concepts – Life expectancy         | The defined period of time during which a product is able to effectively fulfill its designated purpose.   | 0.917   |
| Support surfaces - Physical Concepts – Mechanical Load         | Force distribution acting on a surface.  | 0.958   |
| Support surfaces - Physical Concepts – Pressure                | The force per unit area exerted perpendicular to the plane of interest.  | 0.958   |
| Support surfaces - Physical Concepts – Pressure Redistribution | The ability of a support surface to distribute load over the contact areas of the human body. This term replaces prior terminology of pressure reduction, pressure relief surfaces and offloading.           | 0.958   |
| Support surfaces - Physical Concepts – Pressure Reduction      | This term is no longer used to describe classes of support surfaces. The term is pressure redistribution; see above.   |   |
| Support surfaces - Physical Concepts – Pressure Relief         | This term is no longer used to describe classes of support surfaces. The term is pressure redistribution; see above.   |   |
| Support surfaces - Physical Concepts – Shear stress            | The force per unit area exerted parallel to the plane of interest.   | 0.870   |
| Support surfaces - Physical                                    | Distortion or deformation of tissue as a result of shear stress.   | 0.864   |



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|------------------------------|---|---|
| Concepts – Shear Strain      |   |   |
| Suppuration                  | The formation of purulent fluid.  | 0.800   |
| Suspected Deep Tissue Injury | See Pressure ulcer stages.  |   |
| Thromboangiitis Obliterans   | An inflammatory, occlusive disorder of the small and medium sized arteries and veins in the distal extremities. Most cases occur in men under the age of 40, who smoke cigarettes. Also known as Buerger’s Disease.   | 0.957   |
| Tract                        | See Sinus Tract.  |   |
| Traumatic                    | Abrupt, acute tissue damage from physical, mechanical, chemical, electrical, or other means external to the body.   | 0.960   |
| Trochanteric                 | Located over the greater trochanter.  | 0.917   |
| Tunnel/ Tunneling            | See Sinus Tract.  |   |
| Ultrasound                   | The delivery of sound energy through a connecting medium into a wound or the peri-wound tissue. An ultrasound may be used for diagnostic purposes (i.e. to visualize the wound or subcutaneous structures) or may be used to stimulate wound healing.           | 0.920   |
| Underlying Tissue            | Tissue that lies beneath the surface of the skin such as fatty tissue, supporting structures, muscles, and bone   | 0.960   |
| Undermined/ Undermining      | Area of tissue destruction under intact skin involving a significant portion of the wound edge. Undermining results in a “lip” of intact tissue overlying open space. Distinguished from a sinus tract which extends in a single direction under intact tissue. | 1.000   |
| Unna Boot                    | Paste bandage used as a compressive wrap to treat venous ulcers. Amount of compression varies with the skill of the   | 1.000   |



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|----------------------|--|---|
|                      | practitioner and the technique used.   |   |
| Vasculitis           | An immune-mediated disorder that leads to inflammation and necrosis of blood vessels. Dependent upon the particular disorder, any size blood vessel may be involved, resulting in tissue necrosis and integument injury.   | 1.000   |
| Vascular Diagnostics | Invasive or non-invasive diagnostics studies that determine either structural or functional assessment of the peripheral arterial and venous system. These studies are frequently utilized to predict the potential for wound healing.   | 0.960   |
| Vasoconstriction     | Constriction of the blood vessels  | 1.000   |
| Vasodilation         | Dilation of blood vessels, especially small arteries and arterioles; preferred spelling to "vasodilatation".   | 1.000   |
| Venous hypertension  | Higher-than-normal blood pressure within the leg veins resulting in pathophysiologic changes including varicosities, intravascular and interstitial edema, hemosiderin deposition, dermatitis and ulceration; previously referred to as venous insufficiency or venous stasis. | 1.000   |
| Venous ulcers        | Ulcerations related to venous hypertension.  | 0.960   |
| Vesicle              | A blister-like elevation less than 5 mm on the skin that contains serous fluid.  | 1.000   |
| Wound Bed/Base       | Visible tissue at the base of the wound.   | 1.000   |
| Wound Closure        | The absence of a visible wound achieved by primary or secondary healing marked by complete epithelialization.  | 1.000   |
| Wound Contraction    | See Contraction.   |   |
| Wound drainage       | See Exudate.   |   |
| Wound Margins        | Rims or borders of a wound.  | 1.000   |



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**Quality of Care Wound Glossary**

| <b>Wound Word</b>          | <b>Definition</b>   | <b>Item Content Validation Index Number (Polit Formula)</b> |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Wound Measurement          | A clinical description of wound surface area and volume which commonly includes length by width by depth and notations of undermining, tunneling or sinus tracts obtained by either a two-dimensional linear method or a three-dimensional method.                                | 1.000   |
| Wound Measurement – Length | Wound measurement of the longest dimension of the wound (geometric length) or along the vertical axis (i.e., head to toe is from 12 to 6 o'clock) of the body (anatomic length).  | 1.000   |
| Wound Measurement – Width  | Wound measurement along either the longest perpendicular to geometric wound length or if anatomically measured, a horizontal axis, (i.e. side to side is a 3 to 9 o'clock) of the body, perpendicular to the length.  | 1.000   |
| Wound Measurement – Depth  | Measurement from the top of the intact epidermis to the deepest part of a wound perpendicular to the plane of the skin surface that would cover that wound.   | 1.000   |
| Wound Measurement – Area   | Wound area is the number of square centimeters of body surface covered by the wound typically measured from tracings, image analysis or planimetry. It can be estimated reliably over time by multiplying the longest (geometric) wound length by the longest perpendicular area. | 0.960   |