**PART 1**

**Leg Ulcer**

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**HOLISTIC PATIENT AND WOUND ASSESSMENT**

Undertaken by appropriately trained and competent staff
- History: e.g. medical, surgical, social, familial
- Examination
- Investigations: e.g. Doppler, ABPI

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**COMPLEX Venous Leg Ulcer**

May have:
- VLU with ABPI >0.8 and <1.3
- Wound has been present for more than 1 year
- Patient has lymphovenous disease
- Patient has history of recurrent infections
- Patient has elevated protease activity
- Wound area is >100cm²
- Patient has history of non-concordance
- Wound has failed to reduce in size by 20 - 40% despite best practice at 4 weeks

Consider use of PICO therapy as an adjunct to compression therapy  
*See PART 2*

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**SIMPLE Venous Leg Ulcer**

- VLU with ABPI >0.8 and <1.3
- Wound area <100cm²
- Wound has not been present for more than 1 year

**FIRST LINE TREATMENT**

Full therapeutic graduated compression

**28-DAY REVIEW**

Is the wound progressing?

**YES**

WOUND AND PATIENT RE-ASSESSMENT

- Diagnosis of VLU confirmed?

**YES**

**ASSESS TREATMENT REGIMEN**

- Has compression therapy been correctly applied?
- Has the patient been concordant with this treatment?
- Are there any other comorbidities affecting healing? Have these been addressed?

**YES**

Consider use of PICO therapy as an adjunct to compression therapy  
*See PART 2*
PART 2
CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE USE OF PICO° THERAPY
IN CONJUNCTION WITH COMPRESSION

DO NOT USE PICO IF...
- The patient has a known sensitivity to adhesive dressings
- Wound exudate levels exceed 300ml per week
- Any of the contraindications for PICO use are applicable*

PICO is suitable?  
NO  
Seek specialist advise

YES

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS...

PATIENT SUITABILITY
Is PICO a suitable treatment for the patient being considered?
- Will the patient be concordant with the therapy?
- Will the patient remove and/or interfere with the dressing and/or device?
- Will PICO be acceptable to the patient?

WOUND SITE
Is the wound location suitable for treatment with PICO?
- Will it be possible to achieve and maintain a seal?
- Ensure the port can be located in an area which will minimise the risk of pressure damage

WOUND DEPTH
For wounds with a depth greater than 2cm consider the use of a foam or gauze filler

WOUND INFECTION
Always refer to local protocol for guidance
- Consider use of a topical antimicrobial

PICO is suitable?  
NO  
Seek specialist advise

YES

INITIATE PICO THERAPY  
See PART 3

*PICO is contraindicated for:
- Patients with malignancy in the wound bed or margins of the wound (except for palliative care to enhance quality of life)
- Previously confirmed or untreated osteomyelitis
- Non-enteric and unexplored fistula
- Use on necrotic tissue with eschar present
- Use over exposed blood vessels, nerves or organs
- Exposed anastomotic sites
TREATMENT OBJECTIVE
Establish a specific goal for PICO treatment.
- Wound progression
  - Encourage increased granulation tissue
  - Reduce wound dimension
- Effective management of exudate
- Enhance patient quality of life
- Reduce the resources used in managing the wound

Patient Information
- Supply written and verbal information explaining PICO therapy to the patient
- Obtain informed patient consent for PICO treatment

Initiate PICO treatment as informed by the initiation pathway
- Apply PICO
- Ensure good seal is achieved
- Educate the patient
- Discuss alarm lights and potential problems

INITIAL REVIEW: First dressing Change
- Ensure that PICO is suitable and appropriate for the patient:
  - Ensure PICO is managing exudate
  - Check that the patient and any carers are happy with PICO

WEEKLY REVIEW: End of Week 1 and on-going thereafter
Does PICO continue to be suitable and appropriate?
- Has PICO managed the exudate?
- Is the patient happy with PICO therapy?
Has PICO led to progress being made towards treatment goals:
- Reduction in wound size?
- Enhanced patient quality of life?
- Reduced frequency of dressing changes / nursing visits?

Discontinue PICO and continue compression therapy if:
- PICO has proven to be unsuitable e.g. dressing requires changing more than twice per week
- Patient has had an adverse reaction
- Any of the contraindications to PICO are now applicable

Discontinue PICO if Treatment goal has been achieved:
- e.g. wound reduced in size

Continue with PICO treatment and review on an on-going basis
### Ordering Information

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**References**