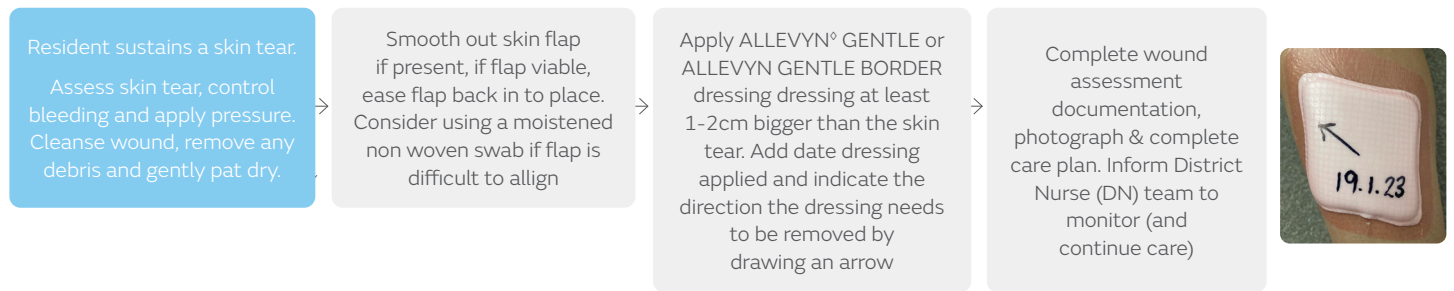


Dressing remedy protocol for skin tears (residential homes)



Skin tear pathway¹: Classification

Type 1: No skin loss



Skin tear without skin loss can be linear where the flap can be repositioned to cover the wound bed.

Type 2: Partial flap loss



Partial flap loss means that the skin flap cannot be repositioned to cover the whole wound bed. (May include bleeding and/or haematoma).

Type 3: Total flap loss



Skin tear involving total flap loss which exposes the entire wound bed. (May include bleeding and/or haematoma). GP/Medical team to consider a referral to plastics.

Dressing remedy protocol

Definition	The dressing remedy protocol is for newly found skin tears
Objective	To ensure that when a dressing remedy is used within the home, this is done within the defined protocol with appropriate record keeping, audit and applied by trained practitioner.
Aims	<p>Dressing remedies aim to provide prompt evidence based wound management for newly presenting wounds. They will replace dry dressings which can adhere to the wound bed and cause pain and trauma on removal.</p> <p>The main aims of management are to preserve the skin flap and protect the surrounding tissue, to join the edges of the wound without undue stretch and reduce the risk of infection and further injury.</p> <p>Use this protocol with South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS trust skin tear pathway.</p>
Record keeping	Complete wound assessment documentation. The dressing remedy must be recorded on the resident's record.
Dressing stock	ALLEVYN GENTLE or ALLEVYN GENTLE BORDER dressing will be used. This is available from ONPOS dressing stock provided by the district nursing team. A small stock to be kept for this protocol in the care home.

Expert opinion suggests using steri-strips are no longer a preferred treatment option for skin tears. Do not use iodine based dressings as these will cause drying of the wound and peri-wound skin.¹

Smith+Nephew does not provide medical advice. The information presented is not, and is not intended to serve as, medical advice. For detailed product information, including indications for use, contraindications, precautions and warnings, please consult the product's applicable Instructions for Use (IFU) prior to use.

The flow chart and imagery in the pathway has been adapted from LeBlanc K et al. Best practice recommendations for the prevention and management of skin tears in aged skin. Wounds International 2018. Available to download from www.woundsinternational.com.

References: 1. LeBlanc K et al. Best practice recommendations for the prevention and management of skin tears in aged skin. Wounds International 2018. Available to download from www.woundsinternational.com.