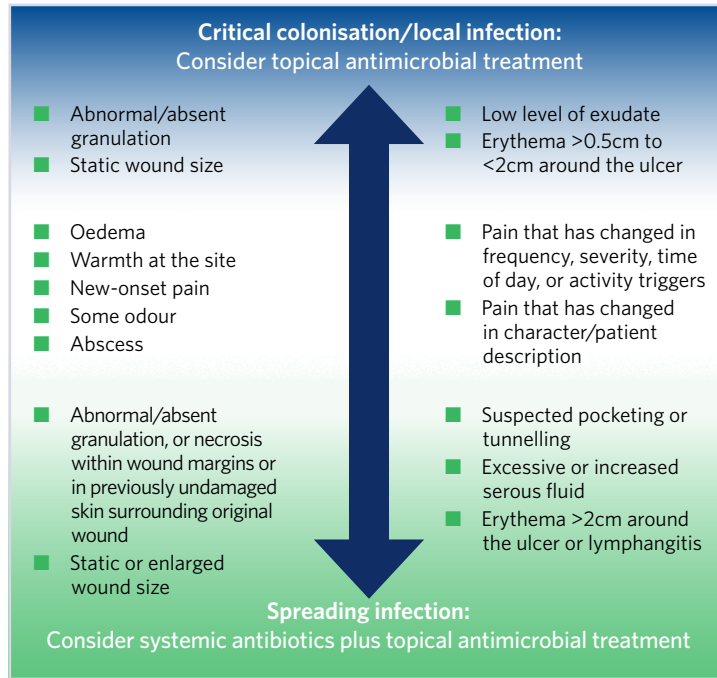


## RECOGNISING POTENTIAL TRIGGERS FOR INITIATION OF TOPICAL ANTIMICROBIAL USE<sup>1</sup>



### ▶ When considering antimicrobial treatment, assess the patient for certain risk factors for developing infection<sup>1</sup>:

- Metabolic disorders (eg diabetes)
- Cardiovascular disorders (eg heart disease, vascular compromise, ischaemia)
- Poor nutritional state
- Smoking
- High level of drug/alcohol use
- Medications that negatively affect wound healing
- Immunocompromise
- Anatomic location
- Necrosis

## TIPS FOR SELECTING AND USING TOPICAL ANTIMICROBIALS<sup>1</sup>

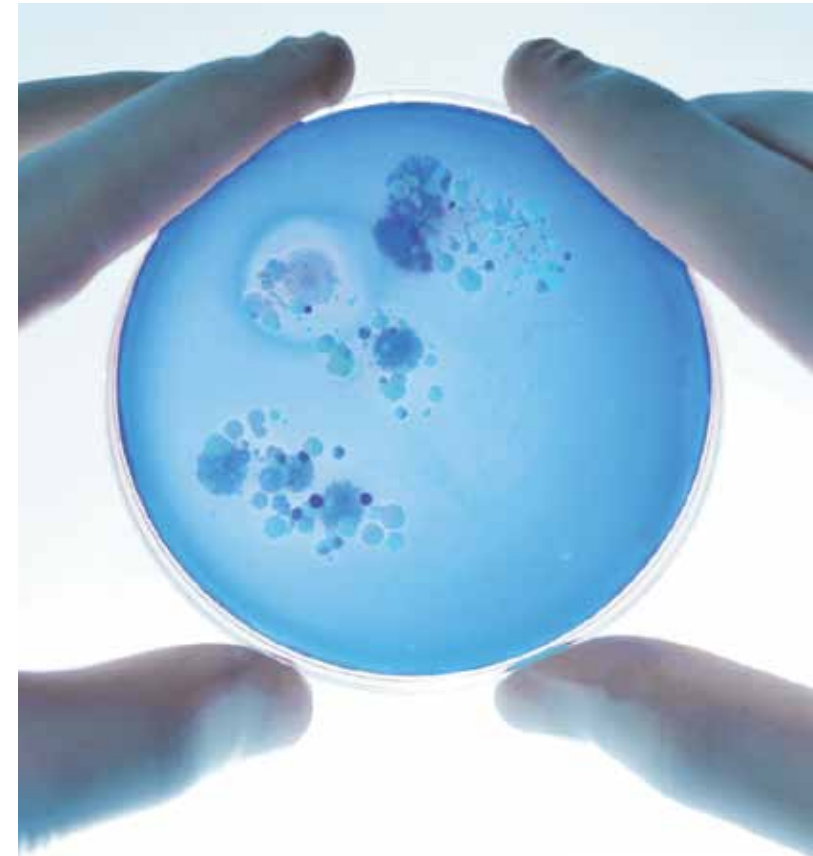
- ✓ Topical antimicrobials should be used only when signs and symptoms suggest wound bioburden is interfering with healing
- ✓ Select the topical antimicrobial product on an individual basis, customising the agent (e.g. honey, polyhexamethylene biguanide [PHMB], silver) and dressing choice to reflect the needs of the patient and clinical needs of wound
- ✓ If the wound is malodorous, consider a topical antimicrobial (e.g. honey) to reduce wound odour
- ✓ For moderate to highly exuding wounds, consider an absorbent dressing with a topical antimicrobial (e.g. PHMB)
- ✓ Consider systemic antibiotic therapy either alone or in combination with topical antimicrobials for patients who present with (or at risk of) spreading infection
- ✓ Implement a standardised decision-making algorithm that comprises assessment of patient/wound, treatment-goal and topical antimicrobial choice factors, and a plan for review (see inside panels)
- ✓ Document the use of the topical antimicrobial agent or dressing, clearly stating the rationale for use, prescribed treatment duration and treatment goals in the health records
- ✗ Do not use topical antimicrobials for patients being treated with standard care and who have no signs of infection
- ✗ Do not use more than one topical antimicrobial product in combination

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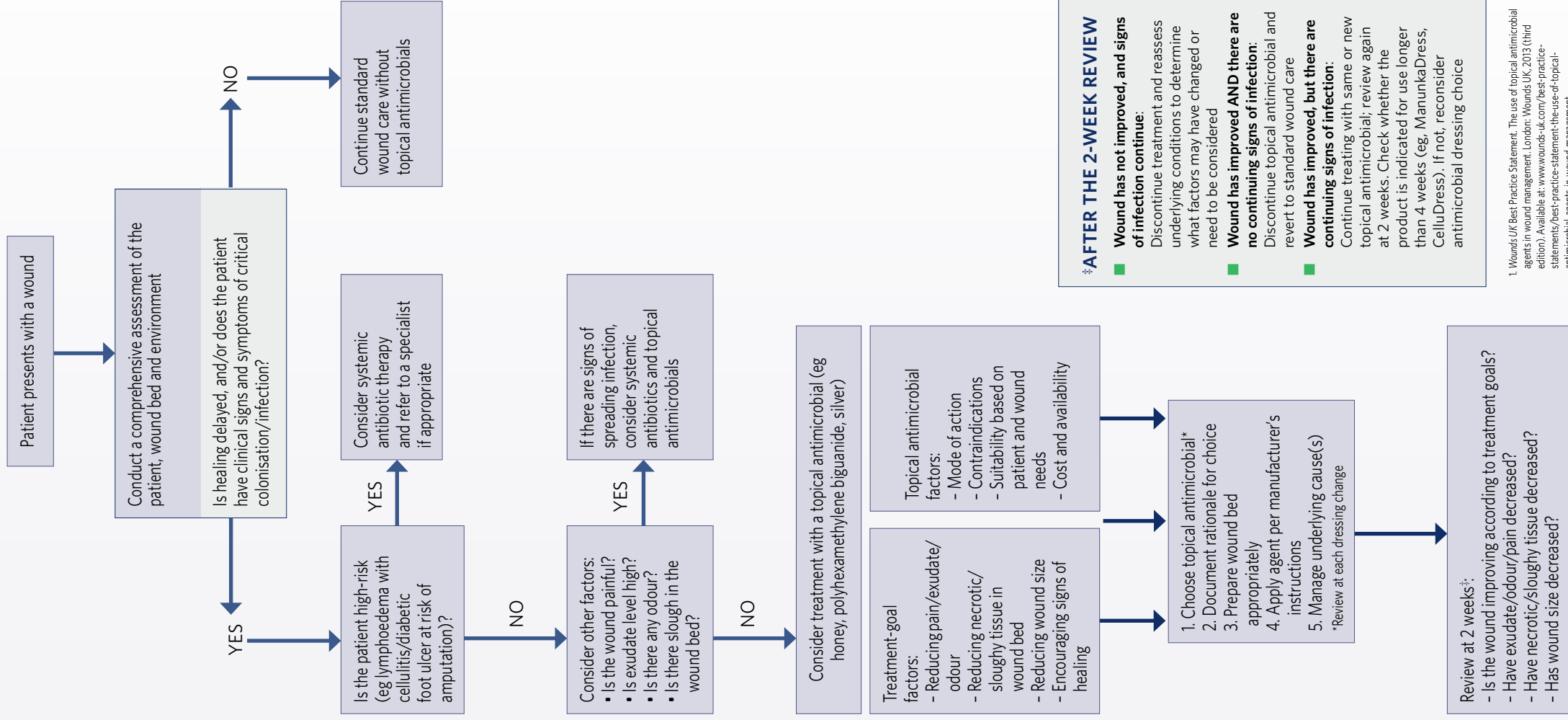
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## QUICK GUIDE TOPICAL ANTIMICROBIALS



Wounds UK

# DECISION-MAKING ALGORITHM FOR THE USE OF TOPICAL ANTIMICROBIALS<sup>1</sup>



## ‡AFTER THE 2-WEEK REVIEW

- **Wound has not improved, and signs of infection continue:**  
Discontinue treatment and reassess underlying conditions to determine what factors may have changed or need to be considered
- **Wound has improved AND there are no continuing signs of infection:**  
Discontinue topical antimicrobial and revert to standard wound care
- **Wound has improved, but there are continuing signs of infection:**  
Continue treating with same or new topical antimicrobial; review again at 2 weeks. Check whether the product is indicated for use longer than 4 weeks (eg, ManukaDress, CelluDress). If not, reconsider antimicrobial dressing choice

<sup>1</sup> Wounds UK Best Practice Statement. The use of topical antimicrobial agents in wound management. London: Wounds UK, 2013 (third edition). Available at: [www.wounds-uk.com/best-practice-statements/best-practice-statement-the-use-of-topical-antimicrobial-agents-in-wound-management](http://www.wounds-uk.com/best-practice-statements/best-practice-statement-the-use-of-topical-antimicrobial-agents-in-wound-management)