QUICKGUIDE

Cutimed® Sorbact® and antimicrobial stewardship

Wounds UK

The importance of antimicrobial stewardship

Antibiotics have been used for many years in wound care to treat spreading and systemic infections, in both acute and chronic wounds. However, the widespread use and misuse of antibiotics across medicine and other sectors has allowed the emergence of microbial strains with resistance to one or more antibiotics.

All of the 43 antibiotics in clinical development or that have been recently approved are insufficient to tackle the challenge of increasing emergence and spread of **antimicrobial resistance** (**AMR**; WHO, 2020). Despite growing awareness of the urgent threat of AMR, the world needs to combat antibiotic resistance in more ways than just with the formulation of new antibiotics.

The United Nations and other international agencies estimate that, if no action is taken, antimicrobial drug-resistant diseases could cause 10 million deaths each year by 2050, costing £66 trillion (Interagency Coordinating Group on Antimicrobial Resistance, 2019).

The solution to reducing and preventing further AMR is a multi-modal approach known as **antimicrobial stewardship** (**AMS**). This approach includes the following:

- Infection prevention
- Using antimicrobial treatments sparingly to preserve their future effectiveness
- Improving safety and quality of patient care (NICE and PHE, 2019).

References

Fletcher J, Edwards-Jones V, Fumarola S et al (2020) *Best Practice Statement: Antimicrobial stewardship strategies for wound management*. Wounds UK, London

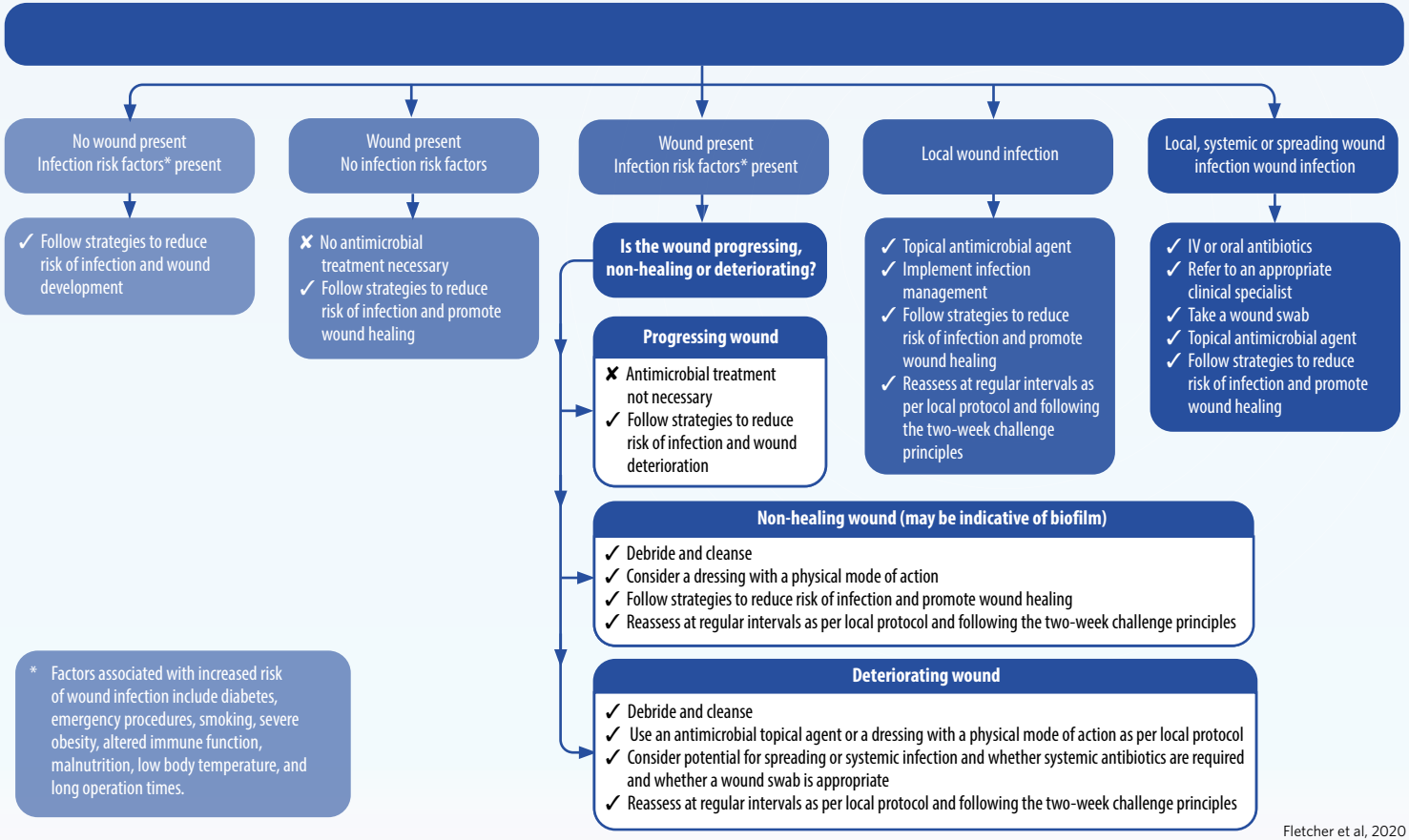
Interagency Coordinating Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (2019) *No Time To Wait: Securing The Future From Drug-Resistant Infections. Report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations*. Interagency Coordinating Group on Antimicrobial Resistance

NICE, PHE (2019) *Summary of antimicrobial prescribing guidance – managing common infections (October 2019)*. NICE, London

Rippon MG, Rogers AA, Ousey K (2021) Antimicrobial stewardship strategies in wound care: evidence to support the use of dialkylcarbamoyl chloride (DACC)-coated wound dressings. *J Wound Care* 30(4): 284-96

WHO (2020) *Antibacterial agents in clinical and preclincal development: an overview and analysis*. WHO, Geneva, Switzerland

Infection risk pathway incorporating AMS principles



* Factors associated with increased risk of wound infection include diabetes, emergency procedures, smoking, severe obesity, altered immune function, malnutrition, low body temperature, and long operation times.

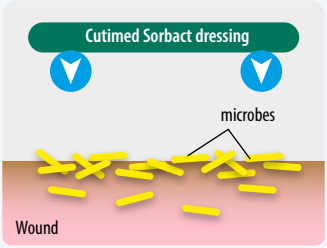
Fletcher et al, 2020

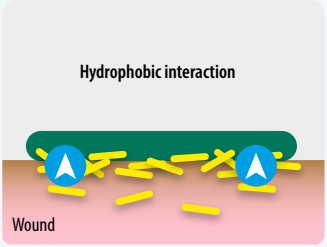
Physical mode of action dressings

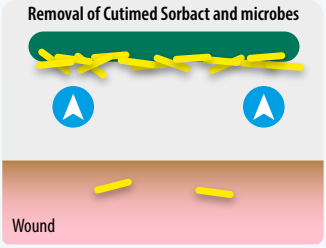
Dressings that manage bacteria bioburden in wounds with a physical mode of action (e.g. Sorbact Technology) play an important role in an AMS-focused approach to wound care. These dressings can be used on any wound where infection control is needed — e.g. infected wounds or wounds at risk of infection ('dirty' or colonised wounds, or for patients with high risk of infection).

Cutimed® Sorbact® and Leukomed® Sorbact® dressings use simple physical principles to effectively bind bacteria and fungi. This means that they do not rely on killing bacteria with antimicrobial agents that may cause resistance. The bacteria are bound to the dressing surface, reducing bacterial load with every dressing change and helping to create optimum conditions for the natural wound healing process.

Dressings with Sorbact Technology can be used on wounds of any aetiology and their physical mode of action means there is no cytotoxicity or contraindications (please refer to individual IFUs for exact guidance).







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Physical mode of action dressings

Cutimed® Sorbact® (essity) is intended for use in the management of clean, contaminated, colonised or infected exuding wounds, such as:

- Leg ulcers
- Surgical wounds
- Traumatic wounds
- Pressure ulcers
- Diabetic foot ulcers
- (+dermal fungal infections for Cutimed Sorbact Ribbon Gauze).

NB: Please refer to IFUs for authorised indications.

Due to its physical mode of action, Cutimed Sorbact is ideal for use as part of an AMS-focused approach. Cutimed Sorbact can be used as part of an AMS-focused infection control pathway in all wounds that are infected or at risk of infection (Rippon et al, 2021).

"Products that offer an alternative approach to the management of increasing bacterial load in chronic wounds, such as dressings with a physical mode of action, are effective in wound bioburden management as there is no risk of bacteria developing resistance."

From the Best Practice Statement on AMS (Fletcher et al, 2020)