## **Chronic Oedema and Wet Legs Algorithm Assessment**

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## Assessment Holistic assessment **Patient history** · Identify the underlying cause of oedema if possible · Establish the duration of oedema Identify risk factors that may cause swelling, e.g. medication, leg dependency, heart failure, nutritional status, BMI Vascular assessment\* When assessing the affected limb(s) are there any signs of: las the patient presented with signs of arterial disease Cold temperature of the limb Consider the following: · Pallor on elevation · Presence of delayed healing · Signs of venous disease · Numbness or weakness (neuropathy) · Absent or weak pulses \*Consider using the BLS vascular assessment tool to guide assessment (BLS, 2019) Can you treat with compression? Yes Holistic assessment (above) indicates that there are no concerns about · Significant concerns regarding arterial status: further referral required arterial status, therefore it is appropriate to apply compression · Concerns regarding heart failure: further advice / referral required Temporary care plan See Phase One Follow this care plan until vascular referral or further advice obtained. See Chronic Oedema and Wet Legs Algorithm Management Plan Apply retention bandaging toe to knee (thigh if applicable), skin care, (Move to the next page) exercise and elevation. Treat any wounds as per NHS Forth Valley Wound Management Formulary

Alternative brands and products are available, please select these on suitability for your patient.

Wound Care People (2019) Best practice in the community. Chronic oedema. Wound Care People