



Tissue Viability Nurses Role

What is a Tissue Viability Nurse?

A tissue viability nurse is a nurse who specialises in wound management and the prevention of wounds.

What do they do?

Provide specialist holistic assessment and treatment for people with (or at risk of) compromised tissue viability, such as varicose veins, leg ulcers, pressure ulcers and non-healing wounds.

Describe their speciality

Our team of specialist nurses can assess, diagnose, treat and monitor people with:

- Leg or pressure ulcers.
- Complex or non-healing wounds.
- Varicose veins.

They also offer:

- Advanced vascular assessment using waveform Doppler.
- A range of therapies for the promotion of wound healing, including the Versajet debridement system and negative pressure wound therapy.

Where do they operate from?

Our team of specialist nurses provide clinic based services and support community nursing staff deliver domiciliary visits to patients at home and in community hospitals. We also support practice nurses in GP surgeries.

When and where and by whom are they called in?

Any registered health professional can refer into the service and request for a specialist assessment. These may be carried out as a joint visit with the health professional or the patient may attend the clinic.

When should they be called in?

A referral should be made when the health professional feels the patient would benefit from further advice, for example, when a wound is not healing within the expected time frame for the person, or they require preventative advice as in the prevention of pressure damage.

In which arenas do they work?

Our team of specialist nurses provide clinic based services at St Peters Hospital in Maldon Essex, but also carry out domiciliary visits within the community supporting community nursing staff. Visits are made to local community hospitals, nursing homes and at times to GP surgeries.

How does a referral to a TV nurse work?

You must be referred by a healthcare professional, such as your GP. Following referral, patients will be prioritised according to the clinical need as identified by the referrer.

Can one contact a TV nurse or TV dept without an referral for advice?

Patients who are already known to the service may contact us for advice. We would not be able to offer advice to patients who are unknown to us for safety reasons and due to not having full access to medical history. We are unable to accept self-referrals.

How often and how long for would a TV nurse visit an elderly person with pressure sores that need treatment?

Specialist tissue viability services do not provide routine care, however, they will carry out a specialist assessment, advise on the care plan, and follow up a patient until the patient makes sufficient progress or is stabilised. The patient will remain in the care of the referring health professional, at times care may be shared.

Does a TV nurse advise care homes for example on plans of care and how do they do this?

The tissue viability service provide advice and patient visits to nursing homes, and will be involved in a patients care in a residential care home usually following a referral from a community nurse. We do offer ad hoc educational sessions which care homes are encouraged to attend.