Burn Depth Assessment

All burn injuries that fall within the Burn Referral Criteria should be discussed with the local Burn Service.

LSEBN guidelines are available via TRIPS Help & Information on www.trips.nhs.uk

Telephone support and advice on initial care of any patient with a burn injury is available at all times.

### SUPERFICIAL/ERYTHEMA
- Involves epidermis only
- Red
- Brisk capillary refill
- Skin is dry and intact
- No blisters
- Painful
- Erythema not included in %TBSA
- Heals within 3-7 days with analgesia & application of non-perfumed moisturiser

### SUPERFICIAL PARTIAL THICKNESS
- Pale pink/red
- Brisk capillary refill
- Exudate present
- Intact or collapsed blisters may be present
- Painful
- Should heal within 14-21 days with non-adherent & absorbent dressings
- Refer to Blister Management Guideline
- Refer to local Burn Service if >3% (adults) & >1% (children)

### DEEP DERMAL
- Dark pink/red or white
- Mottled, stained, cherry red
- Delayed or absent capillary refill
- Dull/variable sensation
- Surgical intervention may be required
- Circumferential burns need urgent discussion
- Refer to local Burn Service

### FULL THICKNESS
- White, black, brown or yellow
- Dry and leathery
- Thrombosed vessels may be visible
- Eschar may be present
- No capillary refill
- No sensation
- Surgical intervention & long term scar management required
- Circumferential burns need urgent discussion
- Refer to local Burn Service

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