



Sutter VNA & Hospice

A Sutter Health Affiliate

Community Based, Not for Profit

Referring Wound Care Patients for Home Health Care

Appropriate wound care referrals:

- Patient is able to be taught wound care or has a caregiver willing and able to assume care.
- Patient and/or identified caregiver is able and willing to comply with treatment plan as outlined by MD and home care staff.
- The referring MD is willing to collaborate with nursing staff and wound care specialty nurses to determine appropriate topical therapy based on patient's needs.
- For appropriate patients, we have an advanced wound product formulary.

Patients who may not be appropriate for home care:

- A chronic non-healing wound and no one to assume the ongoing treatment.
- Requires BID dressing changes and no available caregiver. (Some exceptions may apply if this is best for the patient.)
- Will require ongoing daily dressing changes and no caregiver to assume care.
- Patient has a history of non-compliance with wound treatment plans.
- A Medicare patient who is receiving outpatient wound therapy and needs dressing changes on weekends and holidays.

Please note:

- For a wound that is high risk for complications and/or requires close assessment, RNs will go into the home for daily assessment and treatment for a limited time period if necessary. If the wound cannot be stabilized, moving the patient to a higher level of care may be necessary.
- If a patient has a lower extremity wound with indications of compromised perfusion, vascular studies may be requested in order to accurately assess the patient's ability to heal. Once the vascular study is completed/evaluated, the nurse will collaborate with the referring MD on a realistic treatment plan and appropriate goals.
- In the instance that a wound is determined to be non-healing, the patient and/or caregiver will be instructed in all aspects of wound care. Once the patient and/or caregiver are deemed competent and wound is stable, the patient may be discharged to the community with physician follow up.
- Board and Care and assisted living facilities (RCFEs) are often unable to provide wound care, depending on the severity of the wound and the complexity of the treatment. These cases will be reviewed by our Intake Department on a case-by-case basis. The criteria of having a willing and able caregiver applies to these facilities as well. (Note: With the exception of hospice patients, Board and Care and assisted living facilities cannot accept patients with Stage III or Stage IV pressure ulcers.)

*We welcome your patient referrals.
Please call (800) 557-9777.*