

## Wound Photography Protocol

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### Purpose of Document

To standardise the methodology required for taking photographic images of wounds; allowing for consistent clinical images to be used for progressive assessment.

### Image Requirements

#### Lighting

Wherever possible, use natural light, avoid extremes of light or dark, minimise shadows and **avoid using flash** to accurately capture skin tone and other aspects of the wound.

#### Background

A white or pale, neutral background should be used for the photograph. Avoid bright or patterned backgrounds and remove anything distracting such as dressing products or equipment.

#### Technique

To avoid image distortion it is best to shoot at right angles or square to the wound.

Additionally, to allow the viewer to identify the wound in context an initial photograph from a distance, showing the body part, is recommended.

The close up photo should be such that the wound fills the frame and the wound margins are captured.

#### Consistency

To ensure reliability of information these conditions and techniques should be employed consistently for each clinical photograph. If possible a previous photograph may be used to guide light exposure, background, size and positioning of client and camera.

### Taking the Image

1. In line with the above principles, prepare the environment and position the client to ensure optimal photo quality.
2. Place close to the wound the disposable tape measure with client's study code number and date recorded on it. Avoid any other identifying information.
3. Take the required number of views of the wound ensuring that the image is clear, the whole wound area and tape measure can be seen and that the top of the wound in the view finder is towards the head.

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#### References:

WoundsWest 2010. *Digital Photography in Wound Management*. WoundsWest IT Solution - MMEx  
American Professional Wound Care Association 2013. *Photographic Guidelines*. APWCA.