

# Antimicrobial Stewardship in Wound Care

## 7 Tips



1.

Regular handrub with alcohol-based formulation and proper contact precautions are key in preventing wound infection.



2.

Avoid prescribing antimicrobials when they are not indicated



3.

When antimicrobial therapy is indicated, prescribe an appropriate regimen



4.

Order therapy for the correct duration, at the optimal dose and by the appropriate route<sup>1,2</sup>



5.

Use an agent that has the least risk for adverse effects for the patient and the community<sup>3</sup>



6.

Interdisciplinary collaboration helps inform and enforce AMS



7.

Every healthcare worker is responsible for being aware of local AMR issues and for undertaking AMS

Please note that these recommendations do not cover diabetic foot ulcers, as specific guidelines are available for these.



### Managing the Crisis of Antimicrobial Resistance/Tolerance

Antimicrobial resistance is an escalating global challenge that demands careful management. A crucial approach to addressing this issue is antimicrobial stewardship (AMS), which promotes the responsible use of antibiotics and other antimicrobial agents to curb resistance development<sup>4</sup>. A study published in *The Lancet* (2022)<sup>4</sup> estimated that in 2019, 4.95 million deaths worldwide were associated with bacterial antimicrobial resistance (AMR), with 1.27 million deaths directly attributable to AMR. As this crisis grows, healthcare professionals must exercise caution in antimicrobial prescribing, adhering to AMS principles to mitigate resistance and tolerance<sup>5</sup>. Beyond AMR, wounds represent a significant but often overlooked healthcare burden. Research suggests that 1–2% of the population in developed countries suffer from chronic wounds<sup>6</sup>. In the UK, wound care places a substantial strain on the healthcare system, with 3.8 million patients requiring wound management in 2017/2018<sup>7</sup>.

### An antimicrobial strategy for non-healing wounds should include:

- Routinely determining if the wound is infected
- Surveillance programmes for wound infection
- Clear and achievable metrics
- Local policies to review the appropriateness of antimicrobial use
- An interdisciplinary team of specialists supervising AMS efforts
- Accessible multi-professional educational programmes
- Antimicrobial guardianship programmes
- Patient awareness campaigns

### The five "rights" of prescribing antimicrobials in wound care<sup>8</sup>

1. Right diagnosis and care plan
2. Right antimicrobial and the right delivery system
3. Right time to initiate antimicrobial treatment
4. Right antimicrobial dose
5. Right duration of antimicrobial treatment



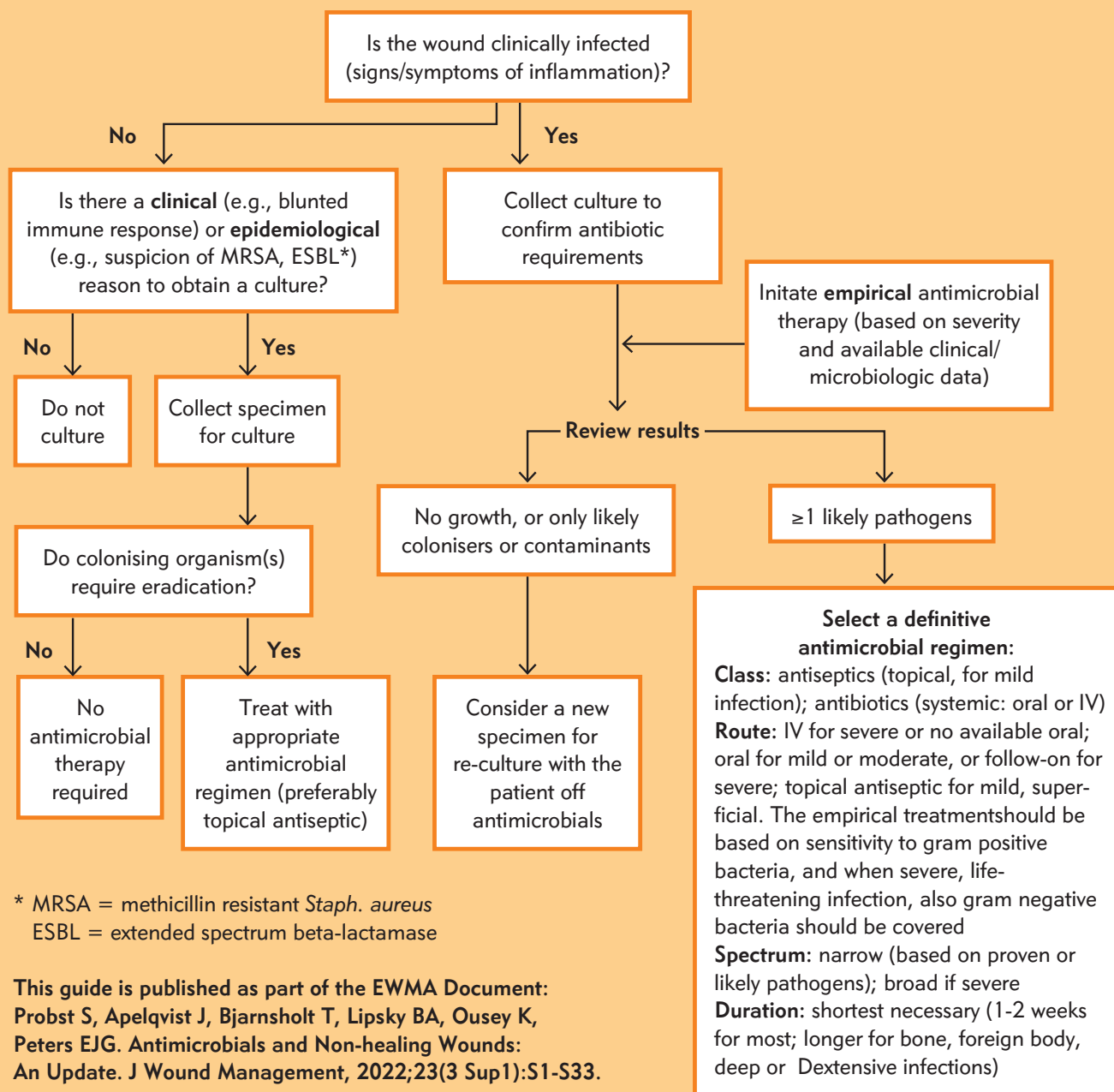
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*"The most effective way to reduce the use of antimicrobials is to prevent infection."*

# A Concise Approach to Treating Potentially Infected Wounds



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