**Wound Care Photography:**

Photographs are key for effective wound assessment. The value of clinical photography in wound management lies in the ability to achieve views over time, adding objective visual confirmation to the written record and can provide evidence of rates of healing, effectiveness of management plans (Wounds UK, 2018).

**Tips:**

1. **Consent** – informed verbal consent should always be sought from the patient and documented in the notes. Consider & record mental capacity for consent or a best interest’s decision.
2. **Equipment** – a good quality camera, tablet, or phone with 10 Megapixels or higher. Cameras requiring a USB stick should be avoided.
3. **Preparing equipment** – ensure that there is enough battery, and that the lens is clean.
   1. If you are using a camera, please ensure that there is room on the memory card and that the setting is on AUTO.
4. **Preparation of patient and environment** –
   1. Ensure that the background is as clear as possible, use a dressing drape or plain towel if possible.
   2. Protect the dignity of the patient – only capture what needs to be captured.
   3. Using a measurer/ruler from the dressing pack to provide size reference. This can also be used to add the date, anatomical position, and patients’ initials.
   4. Try to avoid taking the photo in direct sunlight or artificial light.
5. **Taking the photograph** –
   1. Hold the camera or device 20cm away from wound/area to photograph. It can be helpful to take an additional photo from further away to help clarify the location or overall limb shape. When assessing oedema, it is helpful to see the opposing limb.
   2. Where possible, avoid using a flash as this can distort/alter the colouration of the wound.
   3. Avoid getting yourself in the photograph.
   4. Take a couple of photographs – you can then pick the best.
6. **Upload/file your images to carenotes (patients electronic record) and then delete images from your device to ensure compliance with the Trust’s Information Governance Policy**
   1. Clearly label anatomical position when documenting to avoid confusion.
   2. Ensure image is labelled relevant to concerning patient with the NHS number.

Wounds, U.K., 2018. *Best practice statement: Improving holistic assessment of chronic wounds*. Wounds UK (p 11)