

Quick Guide to Burn Depth Assessment

All burn injuries that fall within the Burn Referral Criteria should be discussed with the local Burn Service. Telephone support and advice on initial care of any patient with a burn injury is available at all times from your local Burn Service

More detailed guidance on assessment and management of burns can be found on the South West Burn Care Network website via <https://www.southwest-burncare-network.nhs.uk/>

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 ☑ Heals within 3-7 days with analgesia & application of non-perfumed moisturiser	
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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