

Managing skin and soft tissue infections

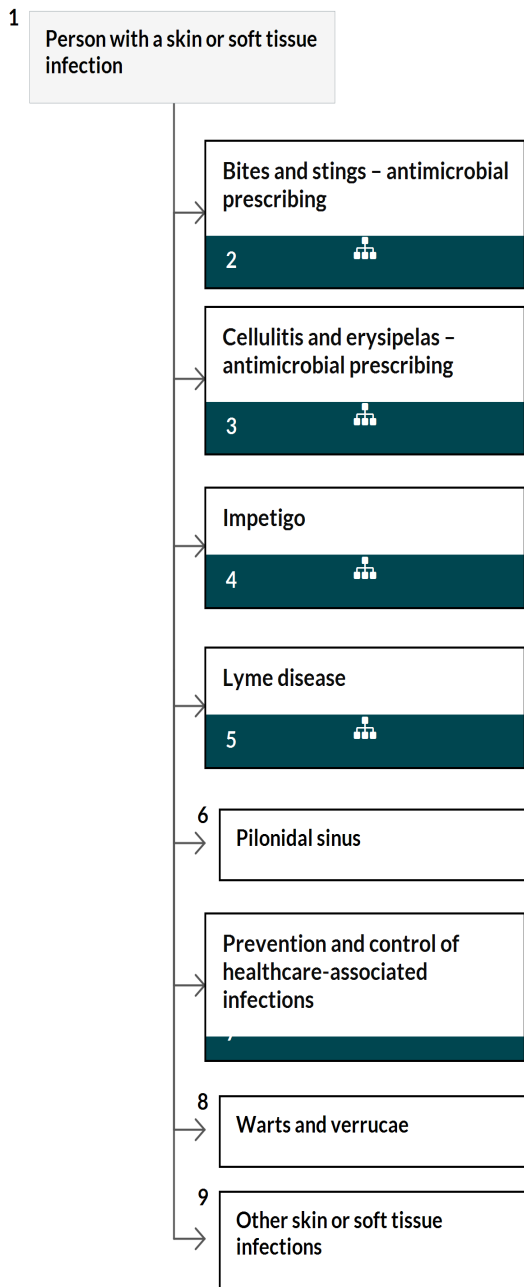
NICE Pathways bring together everything NICE says on a topic in an interactive flowchart. NICE Pathways are interactive and designed to be used online.

They are updated regularly as new NICE guidance is published. To view the latest version of this NICE Pathway see:

<http://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/skin-conditions>

NICE Pathway last updated: 30 July 2021

This document contains a single flowchart and uses numbering to link the boxes to the associated recommendations.



1 Person with a skin or soft tissue infection

No additional information

2 Bites and stings – antimicrobial prescribing

[See Bites and stings – antimicrobial prescribing](#)

3 Cellulitis and erysipelas – antimicrobial prescribing

[See Cellulitis and erysipelas – antimicrobial prescribing](#)

4 Impetigo

[See Impetigo](#)

5 Lyme disease

[See Lyme disease](#)

6 Pilonidal sinus

NICE has published [interventional procedures guidance on endoscopic ablation for a pilonidal sinus](#) with **standard arrangements** for clinical governance, consent and audit.

NICE has published a [clinical knowledge summary on pilonidal sinus disease](#). This practical resource is for primary care professionals (it is not formal NICE guidance).

7 Prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections

[See Prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections](#)

8 Warts and verrucae

NICE has published a [clinical knowledge summary on warts and verrucae](#). This practical resource is for primary care professionals (it is not formal NICE guidance).

NICE has published an [evidence summary on external genital and perianal warts: green tea \(*Camellia sinensis*\) leaf extract 10% ointment](#).

9 Other skin or soft tissue infections

Be aware that no evidence was found on the use of antibiotics in managing secondary bacterial infections of other common skin conditions such as psoriasis, chicken pox, shingles and scabies. Seek specialist advice, if needed.

See the NICE guideline to find out [why we made this recommendation](#).

See the NICE Pathways on the following conditions where skin and soft tissue infections can occur:

- [eczema](#)
- [foot care for people with diabetes](#)
- [leg ulcers](#)
- [pressure ulcers](#).

NICE has published clinical knowledge summaries on:

- [boils, carbuncles, and staphylococcal carriage](#)
- [candida – skin](#)
- [fungal nail infection](#)
- [fungal skin infection - body and groin](#)
- [fungal skin infection – foot](#)
- [fungal skin infection – scalp](#)
- [head lice](#)
- [molluscum contagiosum](#)
- [MRSA in primary care](#)
- [pityriasis versicolor](#)
- [whitlow \(staphylococcal and herpetic\)](#).

These practical resources are for primary care professionals (they are not formal NICE guidance).

Sources

Secondary bacterial infection of eczema and other common skin conditions: antimicrobial prescribing (2021) NICE guideline NG190

Your responsibility

Guidelines

The recommendations in this guideline represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, professionals and practitioners are expected to take this guideline fully into account, alongside the individual needs, preferences and values of their patients or the people using their service. It is not mandatory to apply the recommendations, and the guideline does not override the responsibility to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual, in consultation with them and their families and carers or guardian.

Local commissioners and providers of healthcare have a responsibility to enable the guideline to be applied when individual professionals and people using services wish to use it. They should do so in the context of local and national priorities for funding and developing services, and in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to reduce health inequalities. Nothing in this guideline should be interpreted in a way that would be inconsistent with complying with those duties.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.

Technology appraisals

The recommendations in this interactive flowchart represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, health professionals are expected to take these recommendations fully into account, alongside the individual needs, preferences and values of their patients. The application of the

recommendations in this interactive flowchart is at the discretion of health professionals and their individual patients and do not override the responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or their carer or guardian.

Commissioners and/or providers have a responsibility to provide the funding required to enable the recommendations to be applied when individual health professionals and their patients wish to use it, in accordance with the NHS Constitution. They should do so in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to reduce health inequalities.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.

Medical technologies guidance, diagnostics guidance and interventional procedures guidance

The recommendations in this interactive flowchart represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, healthcare professionals are expected to take these recommendations fully into account. However, the interactive flowchart does not override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

Commissioners and/or providers have a responsibility to implement the recommendations, in their local context, in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations. Nothing in this interactive flowchart should be interpreted in a way that would be inconsistent with compliance with those duties.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.