



Recommendations for the Care of Patients with Malignant Fungating Wounds

November 2021

**Gippsland Region
Palliative Care Consortium
Clinical Practice Group**

<i>Title</i>	Recommendations for the Care of Patients with Malignant Fungating Wounds
<i>Ratified</i>	GRPCC Clinical Practice Group
<i>Effective Date</i>	November 2021
<i>Review Date</i>	November 2023
<i>Purpose</i>	<p>The intent of the policy is to promote region wide adoption of evidence based clinical tools.</p> <p>This policy has been endorsed by the GRPCC Clinical Practice Group. Its purpose and recommended use is to assist clinicians in quality palliative care of patients with malignant fungating wounds</p> <p>Enquiries can be directed to GRPCC by email enquiries@gpcc.com.au</p>
<i>Acknowledgement</i>	<p>This guideline is a direct link to the European Oncology Nursing Society's Recommendation for the care of patients with malignant fungating wounds document. https://www.nfn.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/EONSMalignantFungatingWounds.pdf</p>

Disclaimer

The intent of the GRPCC Clinical Practice Group endorsed clinical guidelines is to make them available to health services and clinical staff across the Gippsland region to promote evidence-based practice in when delivering palliative care.

Clinical guidelines are intended to provide general advice to the medical, nursing, and allied health staff working with clients with a life limiting illness. These endorsed clinical guidelines are not a substitute to comprehensive assessment and critical thinking relevant to the particular patient's individual clinical circumstances and degree of symptom burden. There may also be strong clinical evidence for choosing a therapeutic intervention that may be different to what is recommended in these guidelines. Timely consultation and advice from the palliative care service is always recommended, if appropriate, when using these guidelines.

When developing clinical guidelines, the GRPCC ensures the guidelines content is accurate and based on evidence. The GRPCC takes no responsibility for new clinical evidence or information that become available or be published following guideline distribution or nominated review date.

The GRPCCS guidelines may be used by providers to develop similar protocols and procedures that can be customised according to the organising clinical context and requirements. Health organisations must also ensure that utilisation of these guidelines complement their organisational governance structure including health professional palliative care delivery scope of practice.

The GRPCC CPG and Expert Advisory Group will acknowledge and review the link to the European Oncology Nursing Society's Recommendation for the care of patients with malignant fungating wounds document every 2 years, in line with the GRPCC guideline review policy.

Policy Statement

Malignant fungating wounds (MFW) are defined as an infiltration of tumour or the metastasis into the skin and can involve the afferent blood and lymph vessels and can develop anywhere on the body. Unless malignant cell growth is under control, either through medical treatment such as chemotherapy, radiotherapy, hormone-therapy, electro-chemotherapy or surgery, the fungation continues growing and as a consequence, it evokes damage to the surrounding tissue through a combination of the loss of vascularity, proliferative growth and ulceration.

The aim of the Recommendations for the Care of Patients with Malignant Fungating Wounds document is to support best practice among nurses who manage such wounds, based on current literature and experiences. The objective is to optimise the management of MFWs based on HTA (the Health Technology Assessment) elements: Method, Medical Treatment, Patients, Organisation, and Economics which should provide a structured approach towards all aspects of clinical and organisational factors, patient care, and health economics.

These guidelines have been developed by the European Oncology Nursing Society and have been endorsed by the Gippsland Region Palliative Care Consortium Clinical Practice Group. Consultation with local wound and palliative care consultants in Gippsland, including the GRPCC Expert Advisory Group, have been undertaken as a part of this process.

Link to the EONS guidelines below:

<https://www.nfn.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/EONSMalignantFungatingWounds.pdf>