



# Skin Tear Risk Assessment Pathway for Indigenous People\*

\*Strength of evidence C, expert opinion

## GENERAL HEALTH

- Chronic/critical disease
- Polypharmacy and potential interactions with traditional medicine
- Impaired: Cognitive, sensory, visual, auditory
- Nutrition and hydration

## PHYSICAL FUNCTIONING

- History of falls
- Altered mobility
- Activities of daily living (ADLs)
- Mechanical injury

## SKIN

- Extremes of age
- Fragile skin
- Previous skin tears
- Access to clean water and moisturizers

## SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

- Financial security
- Food security
- Health equity and equality
- Mental health and well-being
- Literacy
- Cultural safety and trust in health care system
- Environmental health and sanitation (water, climate, air, land)
- Transportation

**No Risk Factors**

Reassess with change of condition

**At Risk:** 1 or more of the risk factors listed above

**High Risk:** Visual impairment, impaired mobility, high dependency on activities of daily living (ADLs), extremes of age, previous skin tears, concerns related to social determinants of health

**Implement Skin Tear Risk Reduction Program**

**See ISTAP Indigenous Skin Tear Decision Algorithm**

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**International Skin Tear Advisory Panel (ISTAP)**  
Working towards a **world without skin tears.**

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