

THE VARICOSE VEIN PRIORITISATION PROTOCOL

A Health Community Policy developed by the
Southern Derbyshire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust and agreed
by the local Primary Care organisations.

The protocol should be accompanied by an audit form and the standardised referral letter from the GP.



CLASS 1

Represents Thread Veins or Reticular Veins

Symptoms	Complications	Treatment	Proposal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosmetic 	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sclerotherapy • Support Stockings • Laser Therapy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment not available under the NHS

CLASS 2

Represents Varicose Veins

Symptoms	Complications	Treatment	Proposal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aching • Cramps • Heaviness • Restless Legs • Tingling • Itching • Swelling • Cosmetic 	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sclerotherapy • Support Stockings • Surgery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment not available under the NHS • GPs and Consultants can treat in exceptional circumstances



(Note) If the patient is classification 1 or 2 and you wish the patient to be seen please complete Section D on your referral letter.



CLASS 3

Represents Varicose Veins with **skin changes** at the ankle with the additional possibility of further complications.

Symptoms	Complications	Treatment	Proposal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aching • Cramps • Heaviness • Restless Legs • Tingling • Itching • Swelling • Cosmetic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oedema • Venous Eczema • Superficial Phlebitis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Stockings • Surgery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer for vascular assessment

CLASS 4

Represents **skin changes** ascribed to venous disease **Pigmentation, Venous Eczema, Lipodermatosclerosis.**

Symptoms	Complications	Treatment	Proposal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aching • Cramps • Heaviness • Restless Legs • Tingling • Itching • Swelling • Cosmetic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oedema • Venous Eczema • Lipodermatosclerosis • Superficial Phlebitis • Venous Ulceration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sclerotherapy • Support Stockings • Surgery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer for vascular assessment



CLASS 5 and 6

Represents **severe skin changes and/or active ulceration.** Late Stage venous disease.

Refer for Vascular Assessment



Southern Derbyshire Health Community

For any enquiries please contact the Patient Access and Demand Project Manager
at Greater Derby Primary Care Trust

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