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The development and evaluation of a Hosiery Selection Algorithm in an Acute and Community Health Care NHS Trust and the Leg Club®

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Background

An audit of 40 Registered Nurses was undertaken in 2010 across an Acute and Primary care health care setting to identify factors influencing hosiery selection. The audit results indicated that staff identified maintenance of lower legs, prevention of ulcer recurrence and the management of chronic oedema as the most common uses for hosiery. However, staff may not be selecting the most appropriate hosiery.

Following discussion with the participants, an evidence based Hosiery Selection Algorithm was developed in accordance with National and local guidelines. Following refinement, a further audit was undertaken by the County Tissue Viability team and then evaluated by 78 delegates at the annual Leg Club® Conference 2012.

Method

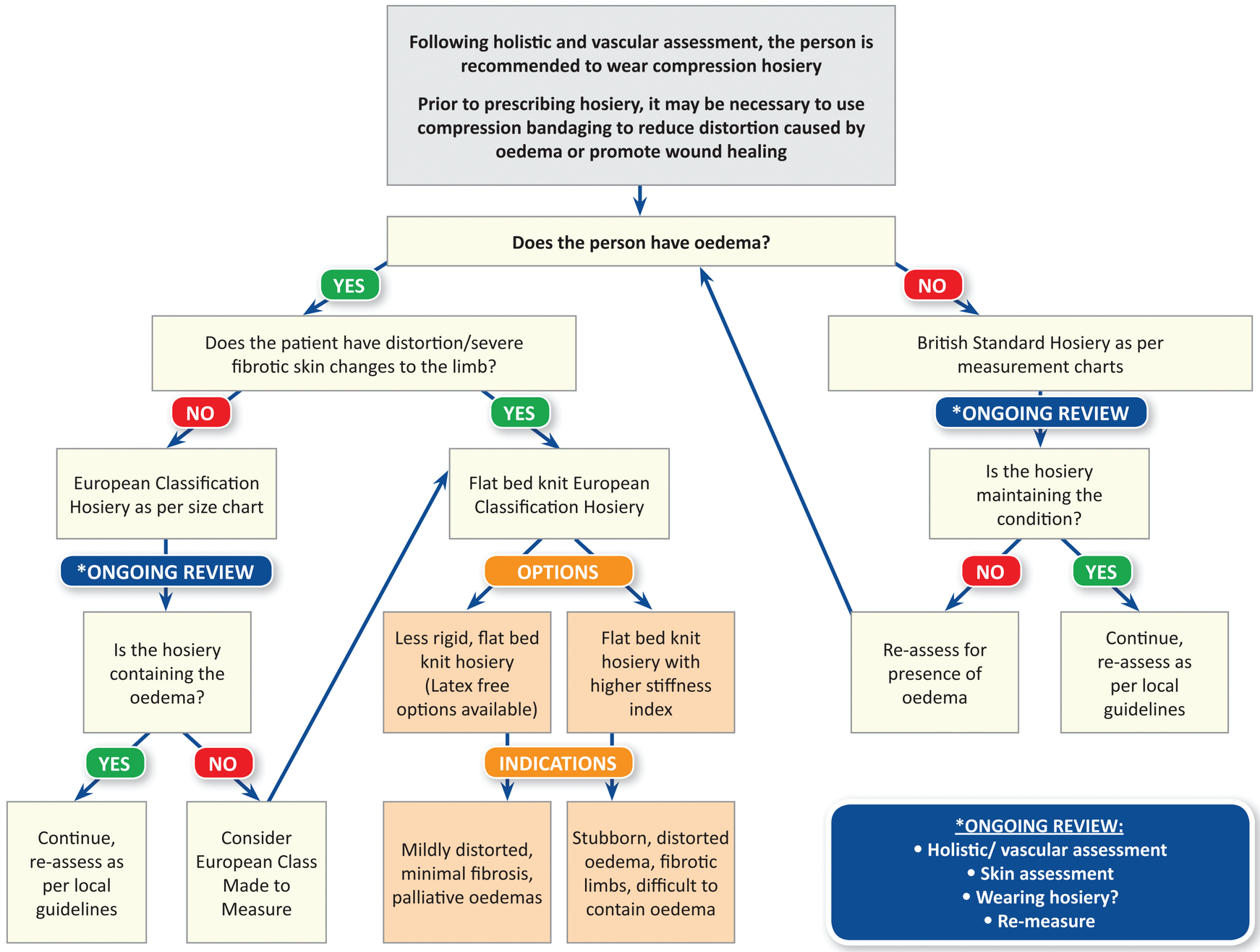
Ethical approval was given by the Leg Club® to undertake an evaluation of the newly developed Hosiery Selection Algorithm at the annual conference. Delegates were invited to take part and those who agreed were shown the algorithm and asked to complete a written questionnaire. Following completion of the questionnaire, delegates were invited to discuss the algorithm and its clinical use.

Results

78 delegates attending the annual Leg Club® conference completed the questionnaire with the following results:

- 100% found the Algorithm easy to follow
- 100% felt it would facilitate more appropriate choice in relation to prevention and management of both leg ulceration and chronic oedema.
- 77% (60) felt that the pathway would encourage them to select alternative hosiery
- 100% of respondents felt it would be worthwhile implementing the Algorithm to facilitate use of national guidelines.

The discussion indicated that the Hosiery Selection Algorithm should be subject to peer review and should be presented at National conference and in publication, to seek further clarification of its use and to allow for dissemination.



Conclusion

The Hosiery Selection Algorithm was evaluated as easy to follow and assisted in appropriate hosiery selection both locally and at a national conference. The Algorithm has been implemented locally to assist with appropriate hosiery selection and a submission made to a national conference to aid dissemination. A further audit will be undertaken in 12 months to ensure it is fully implemented and is supporting appropriate selection.

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