

# Burn Referral Guidelines: Criteria for Referral

**Adults and children with the following injuries should be discussed with the local Burn Service**

**Cause**

- All burns with inhalation injury
- All deep dermal and full thickness burns
- All electrical burns
- All chemical burns
- All burns with trauma

**Affected Area**

- All burns to face, hands, genitals, feet, joints, scalp, ears
- All burns circumferential to limbs, trunk, neck or digits

**Size**

- All partial thickness burns >1% Total Body Surface Area [TBSA] in children
- All partial thickness burns >3% TBSA in adults

**Age**

- All neonates with burns

**Wound**

- All burns not healed within 2 weeks
- All infected burns

**DISCUSS**

- Any burns with suspected non accidental injury or self-harm
- Progressive non burn skin loss conditions (TENS, SSSS, Necrotising Fasciitis)
- Any burns with significant co-morbidity (eg diabetes) or immunocompromised patients
- All friction burns with full thickness skin loss
- All cold burns with full thickness skin loss
- Any burns in older people (60+)
- Any children "unwell" with a burn (see below) \*
- Any other case that causes concern

## \* Toxic Shock Syndrome /Burns Sepsis Syndrome

**Seek early advice from local Burn Service**

**Consider treating with fluid resuscitation, IV antibiotics +/- FFP**

### ALERT

**Any patient  
Any size burn  
Any of these symptoms  
=  
Risk of Toxic Shock Syndrome**

- Temperature > 38°C
- Rash
- Diarrhoea and vomiting
- General malaise
- Not eating or drinking
- Tachycardia/tachypnoea
- Hypotension
- Reduced urine output

## CONTACT DETAILS



[www.trips.nhs.uk](http://www.trips.nhs.uk)

St Andrews Burns Service  
Broomfield Hospital (Chelmsford)  
Adults/Children **01245 516037**  
Outpatients **01245 516008**

Chelsea & Westminster Hospital (London)  
Adults **02033152500**  
Children **02033153706**

Queen Victoria Hospital (East Grinstead)  
Adults **01342 414440**  
Children **01342 414469**

Stoke Mandeville Hospital (Aylesbury)  
Adults and Children **01296 315040**



**If in doubt, seek early advice from local Burn Service**

Telephone support and advice on initial care of any patient with a burn injury is available at all times