Patient Information Leaflet
Using Maggot Therapy in Wound Care

You have been given this information leaflet as your Health Care Professional has suggested using Maggot Therapy as part of your wound treatment. This leaflet will provide you with information about maggot therapy and help provide answers to any questions you may have.

What is Maggot Therapy?
Sterile maggots are bred from the green-bottle fly in a specialized unit and are applied to the wound to remove any unhealthy tissue and fight or prevent wound infection. By removing unhealthy tissue and bacteria, the maggots will give the wound a better chance of healing.

Where do the maggots come from?
A company called Biomonde Ltd produces the sterile maggots in a special laboratory in South Wales.

Why do I have to have maggots on my wound rather than a dressing?
Maggots are very quick at removing the unhealthy tissue from wounds, as they produce special digestive juices that break down the unhealthy tissue and bacteria within your wound to a liquid form. Although there are many wound dressings that help this process of removing dead tissue, they can take several weeks/months to achieve the same results that maggots can achieve in just a few days.

Do I have to go hospital to have maggots applied?
No. Maggots can be applied to your wound in your own home or in a Community Treatment Centre. If you are taking medication to thin your blood or have a clotting disorder there is an increased risk of bleeding. This does not mean you cannot have Maggot Therapy.

However, you might be encouraged to spend a short period of time in hospital or another care setting where you can be closely monitored.

How will the maggots be applied?
Maggots are available in two forms:
- Free-range’ or ‘loose’ maggots that are secured using an adhesive dressing border and net.
- BioBag Dressings – maggots contained in net bags with small pieces of absorbent foam.

Are the maggots likely to ‘get out’?
It is unlikely that the maggots will ‘escape’ from the wound. Firstly, they are secured with a net and adhesive tape and secondly, where there is food (unhealthy tissue) available they will not be looking to leave the wound. If you are very anxious about the maggots escaping you should discuss this with your Health Care Professional.

How long will the maggots stay on my wound?
Each application of maggots will be left on the wound for 3-5 days. Sometimes one application is enough to remove the unhealthy tissue, in other situations you may benefit from further applications.

Will I feel the maggots moving?
Most people say that they cannot feel the maggots in the wound. Occasionally, a ‘tickling’ sensation has been described if the maggots come into contact with intact skin.