





## Burns Assessment

Depth		
<p><b>Superficial/Erythema</b></p> <p><u>Layers involved</u> Epidermis only</p> <p><u>Healing ability</u> Ability to heal themselves within 7 days</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Skin is dry and intact &amp; sometimes painful</li> <li>● Blanches under pressure</li> <li>● Minimal tissue damage</li> <li>● Usually no blisters</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Superficial Partial Thickness</b></p> <p><u>Layers involved</u> Superficial dermis –papillary</p> <p><u>Healing ability</u> Ability to heal themselves by epithelialisation within 14 days</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Blisters immediately</li> <li>● Wound bed, normally pink/red</li> <li>● Moist with moderate exudate</li> <li>● Brisk capillary refill</li> <li>● Very painful</li> <li>● Sensitive to pain air &amp; temperature</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Partial Thickness Deep Dermal</b></p> <p><u>Layers involved</u> Deep dermis – reticular</p> <p><u>Healing ability</u> Prolonged healing resulting in scarring or requires surgical excision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Red/ Pale white creamy wound bed</li> <li>● If blisters present, easy to separate, loose epidermis</li> <li>● Sluggish capillary refill</li> <li>● Slight pain but mostly insensate. Sensitive to deep pressure but not pinprick</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Full Thickness</b></p> <p><u>Layers involved</u> Through entire dermis to subcutaneous layer</p> <p><u>Healing ability</u> Prolonged healing resulting in scarring or requires surgical excision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● White, cream or cherry red wound bed</li> <li>● Black/brown leathery eschar</li> <li>● Pain can be non existent in specific areas; however consideration needs to be given to anxiety and any more painful superficial areas.</li> <li>● Thrombosed vessels may be visible</li> </ul>	

### Diagnosis of Burn Depth: © ANZBA EMSB Course Manual UK Edition (2012)

Depth	Colour	Blisters	Capillary Refill	Sensation	Healing
Epidermal	Red	No	Present	Present	Yes
Superficial Dermal	Pale Pink	Small	Present	Painful	Yes
Mid-Dermal	Dark Pink	Present	Sluggish	+/-	Usual
Deep Dermal	Blotchy Red	+/-	Absent	Absent	No
Full Thickness	White	No	Absent	Absent	No