

# Glossary Terms

## Skin

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### Allergic contact dermatitis (Contact allergy)

Itchy red skin caused by an allergic reaction that develops after being exposed to a foreign substance such as latex.

### Cutaneous candidiasis

An infection of the skin caused by candida fungus. Candida infection often occurs in areas exposed to moisture for too long. It is a red itchy rash commonly found in the folds of skin, between fingers and toes, around fingernails and toenails and the groin.

### Dermatitis (Eczema)

A general term to describe the inflammation of the skin, either due to an inherent skin defect, direct contact with an irritating substance, or to an allergic reaction.

### Incontinence Associated Dermatitis (IAD)

Itchy sore and red skin caused by urine and faeces being in contact with the skin for too long. Skin breaks down because the epidermis is over hydrated and irritated due to excessive moisture.

### Liver spots (Age spots)

Small, flat, brown spots often caused by years in the sun. Commonly shows up on sun exposed areas such the face, hands, shoulders and arms, back, and feet.

### Pressure areas

Any areas of the body where a bone is close to the skin surface, so that pressure on that area (e.g. by lying in bed) deprives the overlying tissues of their blood supply. The skin area is damaged by unrelieved pressure when soft tissue is compressed between a bony prominence and an external surface for a prolonged time.

### Pruritus (Itch)

An uncomfortable and irritating sensation of the skin that provokes the urge to scratch.

### Ringworm (Tinea)

A fungal infection of the skin which typically results in a red, itchy, scaly, circular rash.

### Shingles (Herpes zoster)

A skin rash which usually appears on one side of the face or body, it is characterised by pain and a blistering rash. It is a viral infection caused by the same virus responsible for chickenpox.

### Skin tags

Small, soft, flesh-coloured growths of skin often on a stalk. They are the most common bump on adult skin and is found in skin folds.

### Skin tears

A traumatic wound which is commonly found in the arms or legs of older adults, as a result of friction or shearing which separates the epidermis from the dermis.

### Xerosis (Asteatotic eczema)

Skin becomes very dry, rough and scaly, and sometimes resembles crazy paving or a dried-up riverbed, it usually affects the shins and is most common in older people.

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