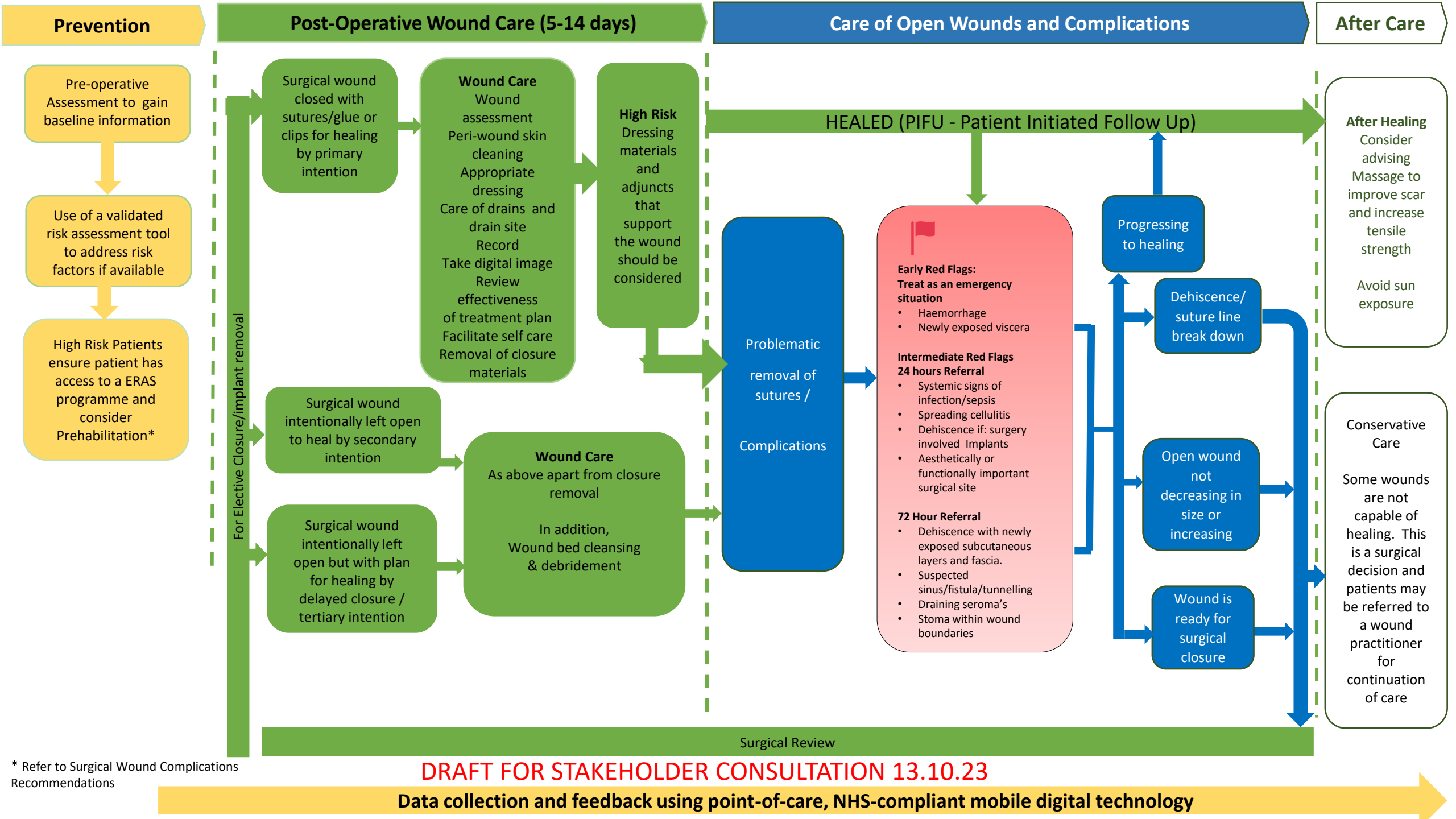
Prevention
Post-Operative Wound Care (5-14 days)
Care of Open Wounds and Complications
After Care
Pre-operative Assessment to gain baseline information
Use of a validated risk assessment tool to address risk factors if available
High Risk Patients ensure patient has access to a ERAS programme and consider Prehabilitation*
For Elective Closure/implant removal
Surgical wound closed with sutures/glue or clips for healing by primary intention
Wound Care
Wound assessment
Peri-wound skin cleaning
Appropriate dressing
Care of drains and drain site
Record
Take digital image
Review effectiveness of treatment plan
Facilitate self care
Removal of closure materials
High Risk
Dressing materials and adjuncts that support the wound should be considered
Surgical wound intentionally left open to heal by secondary intention
Surgical wound intentionally left open but with plan for healing by delayed closure / tertiary intention
Wound Care
As above apart from closure removal
In addition,
Wound bed cleansing & debridement
HEALED (PIFU - Patient Initiated Follow Up)
Problematic removal of sutures / Complications
Early Red Flags:
Treat as an emergency situation
• Haemorrhage
• Newly exposed viscera
Intermediate Red Flags
24 hours Referral
• Systemic signs of infection/sepsis
• Spreading cellulitis
• Dehiscence if: surgery involved Implants
• Aesthetically or functionally important surgical site
72 Hour Referral
• Dehiscence with newly exposed subcutaneous layers and fascia.
• Suspected sinus/fistula/tunnelling
• Draining seroma's
• Stoma within wound boundaries
Progressing to healing
Dehiscence/ suture line break down
Open wound not decreasing in size or increasing
Wound is ready for surgical closure
After Healing
Consider advising Massage to improve scar and increase tensile strength
Avoid sun exposure
Conservative Care
Some wounds are not capable of healing. This is a surgical decision and patients may be referred to a wound practitioner for continuation of care
Surgical Review
* Refer to Surgical Wound Complications Recommendations
DRAFT FOR STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION 13.10.23
Data collection and feedback using point-of-care, NHS-compliant mobile digital technology