Skin Infections

- Cellulitis is rarely bilateral and is an acute infection of the skin resulting in a warm, tender, and well-demarcated red area of skin.

- Wound cultures are not necessary for all pressure ulcers but if indicated, should be done with the proper technique to avoid inaccurate results such as superficial colonization.

- Signs of wound infection include fever, foul odor, purulent drainage, increased tenderness, redness, and warmth of the surrounding skin, and/or deterioration the wound such as worsening tunneling, undermining, or slough.

- X-rays are an appropriate first step in assessing for osteomyelitis as they can be obtained in the facility and are inexpensive. However, X-rays are not very sensitive and therefore can only rule in but not rule out the presence of osteomyelitis.

- Consider MRSA coverage for wounds with purulent drainage, associated abscess, or more severe infections.

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