

# Wound care in five English NHS Trusts: Results of a survey

## KEY WORDS

- ▶ Ageing
- ▶ Infection
- ▶ Survey
- ▶ Wound
- ▶ Wound dressing

KAREN OUSEY

*Reader Advancing Clinical Practice, School of Human and Health Sciences, University of Huddersfield, Huddersfield*

JOHN STEPHENSON

*Senior Lecturer in Biomedical Statistics, School of Human and Health Sciences, University of Huddersfield, Huddersfield*

SIMON BARRETT

*Lead Nurse for Tissue Viability, Humber NHS Foundation Trust, Hull*

BRENDA KING

*Consultant Nurse: Tissue Viability, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Sheffield*

NICKY MORTON

*Consultant Nurse: Tissue Viability, Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, Lancashire*

KIM FENWICK

*Tissue Viability Specialist Nurse, Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust, Watford*

CARYN CARR

*Advanced Clinical Nurse Specialist, Tissue Viability, Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust, Lyndhurst*

This survey aimed to identify and quantify the demographic characteristics, treatment objectives, and wound characteristics of patients from five English NHS Trusts receiving wound treatment. Data from 4772 patients (59.8% female; 79.7% aged >65 years) were received. Approximately half were leg wounds. Most patients had one or more comorbidity, most commonly vascular and cardiovascular. The majority of wounds were <3 months' duration and had no associated infection indicators (a small minority had ≥3 infection indicators). Swabbing was considerably more common in wounds showing no primary infection indicators than in infected wounds. Nurses were most commonly involved with dressing changes. Protecting granulation was the most common treatment objective and dressings were changed most commonly twice-weekly as a scheduled care change. No significant differences in wound or patient characteristics were observed between Trusts.

The population of the United Kingdom is increasing in size and age. During the period 1985–2010, the number of people aged ≥65 years increased by 20% to 10.3 million; in 2010, 17% of the population were aged ≥65 years, with people aged ≥85 years more than doubling to 1.4 million. The percentage aged <16 years fell from 21% to 19% (Office for National Statistics [ONS], 2011).

The ageing population is forecast to continue to grow over the next few decades, with projections suggesting that the number of people aged >85 years by the year 2035 will be 2.5 times larger than in 2010, accounting for 5% of the population, and that those aged 16–64 years will decrease from 65% to 59% by 2035 (ONS, 2011). This is important, because if the younger population is decreasing we can assume that there may be a lack of healthcare personnel in the future to care for the increasing older population. Added to this is the ageing workforce of the health and social care sector, where a high proportion of employees are aged >45 years. In England in 2011, 583 285 nurses were registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC, 2011; The Centre for Workforce Intelligence, 2013) Around 80 000 nurses on the NMC register are aged 50–55 years, and 100 000 are aged ≥55 years (Higher Education Policy Institute, 2005).

The expectation is that approximately 25 000 nurses will retire by 2015 (Buchan, 2005). The Centre for Workforce Intelligence (2013) projects an overall decline in the number of nurses between 2011 and 2016 because of reduced education commissions, attrition, rising retirements, net emigration of UK-trained nurses and other trends. We can assume that as the ageing population increases, there will be an increase in the need to prevent and treat challenges associated with skin integrity. However, as a large proportion of the experienced workforce in the health and social care sector is due to retire by 2015, there is a need for tissue viability practitioners to understand the current prevalence and categories of wounds, treatments and the grade of staff managing wounds, and cascade this knowledge to new practitioners, ensuring the understanding of the importance of accurate assessment and timely interventions. Everyone who undertakes wound assessment and management should be able to access appropriate education and skills to ensure competency and confidence. Cook (2011) presented results of a survey of registered and unregistered staff members' perceived competency of wound bed assessment. The author concluded that most respondents believed they were competent or average, but 16% highlighted that they were unsure at times, and 9% stated they would benefit from further training. Importantly

all registered staff have a professional obligation to maintain their knowledge, as defined by the NMC in *The Code: Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics for Nurses and Midwives* who are clear that nurses should recognize the limits of their competence, and be accountable for keeping their knowledge and skills up-to-date (NMC, 2008).

This article presents the results of a wound care survey from five English Trusts, which aimed to identify and quantify the age and gender of patients receiving wound treatment, treatment objectives, and the type, duration and characteristics of wounds. The total population for the five Trusts was 2 090 000 people (exact figures for each Trust are not given to maintain anonymity). When interpreting the data, it was not always possible to distinguish between missing/invalid data, and questions that were correctly left blank. For example, respondents were not obliged to tick any boxes for the question relating to comorbidities, so it was not possible to distinguish between those who missed out the question and those who (correctly) left it blank because there were no comorbidities. Hence the calculated proportion refers to the proportion of the total sample who recorded one or more comorbidities. In such cases, proportions of missing data have not been calculated.

## METHODS

### Ethical issues

Local research governance was received from each participating Trust's research and development office. All data were anonymised and no identifying place, staff or patient names were used. Completed surveys were stored in a locked cupboard in a locked office and all electronic data stored on encrypted computers. Completed data sets have been stored on a secure server at the University of Huddersfield.

### Sampling Overview

A total of 4772 usable responses were received. The contribution from each Trust was as follows:

- ▶ Trust 1: 823 (17.2% of the total sample).
- ▶ Trust 2: 1114 (23.3% of the total sample).
- ▶ Trust 3: 914 (19.2% of the total sample).
- ▶ Trust 4: 691 (14.5% of the total sample).
- ▶ Trust 5: 1230 (25.8% of the total sample).

Data were recorded on paper and transferred to SPSS statistical software (version 20.0) for subsequent analyses.

Proportions quoted are based on valid responses to the relevant questions in the survey (*Appendix 1*). All percentages and proportions quoted in this study refer to valid responses.

## RESULTS

### Patient demographics

The gender balance was similar across all Trusts, with female patients outnumbering male patients in every Trust. Overall, 2154 (59.8%) of all patients were female, and 1449 (40.2%) were male. Patient ages ranged from <14 to >81 years. Ages were grouped; the exact ages of patients was not recorded. While the majority of patients from all Trusts fell into the older age groups, there were some differences in the age distribution between different Trusts; fewer elderly patients were represented in Trust 2 (about 31.4% aged ≥81 years) than in other Trusts, with the greatest proportion of patients in the oldest age group being found in Trust 4 (58.7%). Just under half (1964; 47.9%) of patients were aged ≥81 (*Table 1*).

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of patients (*n*=4772).

Characteristic	Valid <i>n</i> (%)
Sex	3603
Male	1449 (40.2)
Female	2154 (59.8)
Age group (years)	4102
<14	7 (0.2)
14–49	336 (8.2)
50–64	489 (11.9)
65–74	648 (15.8)
75–80	658 (16.0)
≥81	1964 (47.9)
Comorbidities <sup>1</sup>	5299
General infection	355 (7.4)
Immunosuppression	187 (3.9)
Dermatological conditions	370 (7.8)
Vascular disease	835 (17.5)
Cardiovascular conditions	882 (18.5)
Anaemia	204 (4.3)
Malnutrition	146 (3.1)
Obesity	470 (9.8)
Diabetes	738 (15.5)
Palliative	220 (4.6)
Other	892 (18.7)

1. More than one comorbidity could be stated per patient. Percentages refer to full sample. A total of 3296 patients (69.1%) recorded one or more comorbidities.

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The majority of patients from all Trusts had at least one contributing/underlying disease factor. The proportion of such patients ranged from 61.1% in Trust 1 to 74.3% in Trust 5. Approximately a quarter of all patients were reported to have two or more contributing/underlying disease factors, with small numbers with three or more factors. In most Trusts, cardiovascular conditions were the most frequently reported conditions (amounting to 882 patients over all Trusts; 18.5% of all patients). However, in Trust 2, obesity was the most frequently reported condition, although over all Trusts, total numbers with this condition were lower (470 patients; 9.8% of all patients). Other commonly reported conditions included vascular conditions (835 patients; 17.5%), diabetes (738 patients; 15.5%) and dermatological conditions (370 patients; 7.8%) which were recorded in significant numbers in all Trusts (Table 1).

#### **Treatment personnel and location**

In all Trusts, nurses made decisions about treatment plans in a majority of cases. In most Trusts, nurses were involved in 75% or more of treatment plan decisions (Table 2). However, in Trust 2 the proportion was lower at around 58% (a significant proportion of responses from this Trust were reported as “Other” (i.e. not a nurse, medic/GP or case manager). In the majority of cases, the occupation of these individuals was not recorded: a range of occupations, including “podiatrist”, “consultant”, “dermatologist” and “surgeon” were recorded in low frequencies. In

all Trusts, the majority (77% or more) of personnel involved with the changing of dressing were nurses or district nurses.

The overall distribution of treatment locations was similar across all Trusts, with the majority of wounds treated in community clinics or in the patient’s home. A minority of wounds were treated at a hospital clinic. The Trusts in which the largest proportion of patients were treated in their own homes were Trusts 4 and 5, with over 80% of wounds treated in this way in these Trusts (Table 2).

#### **Wound categories**

A proportion of patients were reported as having multiple wounds and these were recorded by staff on separate forms during the audit, with each wound being counted and analysed separately. The most common wounds in all Trusts except Trust 4 were venous leg ulcers, with 849 venous leg ulcers being recorded in total (20.0% of all wounds). In Trust 4, the most common wounds were traumatic wounds, which were recorded in slightly higher numbers ( $n=93$ ) than venous leg ulcers ( $n=91$ ) in that Trust. However it is worth noting that the majority (80.1%) of these traumatic wounds were located on the lower limb and as such may have in fact been leg ulcers if the duration had been in excess of 6 weeks. After venous leg ulcers, traumatic wounds (591; 13.9%) and surgical wounds (535; 12.6%) represented the next most common types of wounds recorded over all Trusts. No other wound type accounted for more than 8.4% of the total number of recorded wounds; however, all types of pressure ulcer considered together amounted to 767 (18.1%) of all wounds (Table 3). The European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel classification (2010) was used by all respondents when identifying a pressure ulcer.

Substantive associations recorded between common wound types and comorbidities at Trust level were also found to exist on the combined data set. Venous leg ulcers were most strongly associated with vascular and cardiovascular conditions, with 215 patients with a venous leg ulcer (39.7%) having vascular conditions, and 117 patients with a venous leg ulcer (21.6%) having cardiovascular conditions. Mixed leg ulcers were also strongly associated with vascular conditions, with 93 mixed leg ulcer patients (46.0%) having this condition. Main reported comorbidities are summarised in Figure 1.

**Table 2. Personnel involved and location of treatment plan and dressing change.**

Variable	Valid <i>n</i> (%)
Treatment plan decision personnel	4051
Nurse/district nurse	3223 (79.6)
Medic/GP	142 (3.5)
Other	686 (16.9)
Personnel changing dressing	3954
Nurse/district nurse	3304 (83.6)
Support worker	144 (3.6)
Other	506 (12.8)
Treatment location	3887
Patient’s home / community	2987 (76.8)
Community clinic	526 (13.5)
Nursing home	284 (7.3)
Other	90 (2.3)

*“Across all Trusts, older patients had generally higher frequencies of wounds than younger patients.”*

Variable	Valid n (%)
Wound type	4247
Pressure ulcer category 1	121 (2.8)
Pressure ulcer category 2	355 (8.4)
Pressure ulcer category 3	203 (4.8)
Pressure ulcer category 4	88 (2.1)
Venous leg ulcer	849 (20.0)
Mixed leg ulcer	275 (6.5)
Diabetic foot ulcer	200 (4.7)
Total leg/foot ulcers	1324 (31.2)
Traumatic wound	591 (13.9)
Arterial leg ulcer	151 (3.6)
Fungating lesion	60 (1.4)
Surgical wound	535 (12.6)
Cellulitis	104 (2.4)
Skin tear	243 (5.7)
Burn	31 (0.7)
Moisture lesion	95 (2.2)
Haematoma	27 (0.6)
Other	319 (7.5)

Few obvious associations between gender and wound type were recorded in any of the individual Trusts or in the total sample; however, despite females outnumbering males by 3:2 in the whole sample, the majority of surgical wound patients (237; 53.3%) and diabetic foot ulcer patients (84; 55.6%) were male. Females outnumbered males in all other wound categories.

Across all Trusts, older patients had generally higher frequencies of wounds than younger patients. The highest incidence of all the main categories of

wounds was recorded in the >81 years age group, with the exception of surgical wounds and burns, which were approximately evenly distributed over the entire age range (<14 to >81 years). Of the main wound types, only surgical wounds and venous leg ulcers were recorded in significant numbers in patients below the age of 75.

**Wound characteristics**

Across all Trusts, the proportion of wounds located on the leg was consistently found to be about half the total number of wounds recorded. Overall, leg wounds amounted to 2350 (50.3%) of all wounds. Interestingly, some practitioners differentiated between leg, thigh, and foot/toe, and as such, there were an additional 286 (6.1%) wounds recorded as being located on the thigh, and a further 705 (15.1%) wounds recorded as being located on the foot/toe.

Of all wounds 434 (9.3%) were recorded on the buttock. No other location amounted to >5.0% of reported wounds. There were no obvious differences in the proportions of wounds in various locations between Trusts (Table 4).

In all Trusts, most recorded wounds were short in duration. The proportion of wounds of <6 weeks’ duration was lower in Trust 5 (49.7%) than in other Trusts. In all other Trusts, this category represented over half of all recorded wounds. In the entire sample, 2493 (53.5%) of all wounds were of <3 months’ duration, with the median wound duration between 6 weeks and 3 months (Table 5).

In most Trusts, the majority of observed wounds were judged to be improving on observation, although in Trust 5 this proportion was slightly lower (49.5%). Overall the total number of wounds judged to be healing was 2563 (55.4%). However, there were no obvious differences in the improvement rates shown over the five Trusts. The proportion of wounds judged to be deteriorating was very consistent at between 8.9% and 9.7% (Table 6).

In all Trusts, a very wide variety of wound lengths and widths was recorded, with most Trusts recording wounds up to about 50–60 cm in length (no wounds >28 cm in length were recorded in Trust 2). Mean wound lengths and widths were very consistent, ranging from 3.14 cm (length) and 2.23 cm (width) in Trust 1 to 3.84 cm (length) and 2.65 cm (width) in Trust 4. Over the whole data set, mean wound length

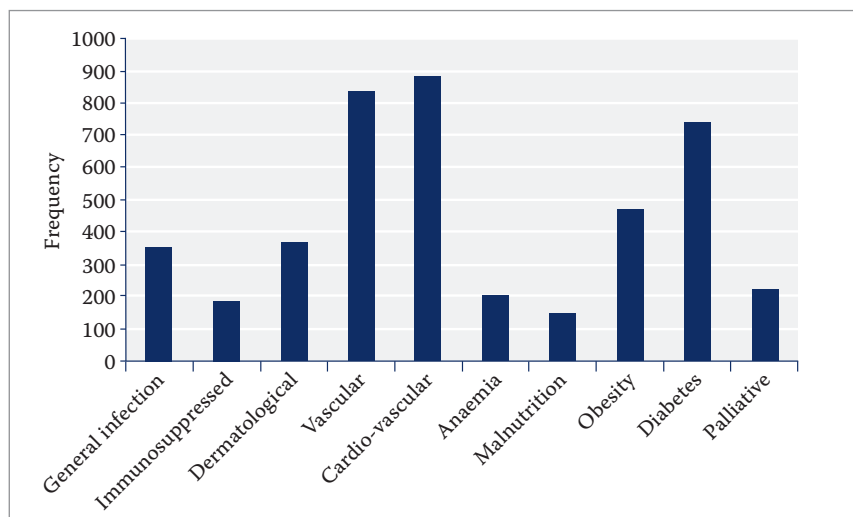


Figure 1. Main reported comorbidities.



Table 4. Wound location.

Variable	Valid n (%)
Wound location	4672
Head/neck	72 (1.5)
Arm/hand	197 (4.2)
Groin	53 (1.1)
Front torso	234 (5.0)
Buttock	434 (9.3)
Heel	212 (4.5)
Back torso	82 (1.8)
Leg	2350 (50.3)
Foot/toe	705 (15.1)
Other	333 (7.1)

Table 5. Wound duration.

Variable	Valid n (%)
Wound duration	4660
<6 weeks	1473 (31.6)
6 wks–3 mts	1020 (21.9)
3–6mts	402 (8.6)
6 mts–1 year	541 (11.6)
1–2 years	488 (10.5)
2–5 years	342 (7.3)

was 3.46cm (standard deviation [SD], 4.24cm) and mean wound width was 2.42 cm (SD, 2.95cm). Depth assessments were also very consistent with between 77% and 82.3% being classified as superficial in each Trust (79.6% overall; *Table 6*).

Some differences across Trusts were noted in the proportion of wounds observed to be granulating; varying from 54.0% in Trust 2 to 38.5% in Trust 5 (45.7% overall). Most wounds across all Trusts were categorised as moist. Surrounding skin was categorised as dry or healthy/normal in a majority of cases in all Trusts, with no significant differences across Trusts in the proportions of wounds classified in this way.

Practitioners across all Trusts assessed all wounds for signs of infection using appropriate indicators of wound infection. While a majority of wounds in all Trusts were classified as free from infection, the proportions varied slightly from 58.3% in Trust 1 to 68.2% in Trust 2 (overall 64.3%). The most common infection indicator was delayed healing (639; 13.4%), significantly greater in frequency than the indicators increased pain and increased exudate (*Table 6*). A total of 310 patients (6.5%) had three or more infection indicators. Amongst these patients, a different pattern was apparent. The most common infection indicator was increased exudate (194; 17.9%); followed by delayed healing and increased pain (*Table 6*). Antimicrobials were used in 151 patients with 3 or more infection indicators (48.7%).

The incidence of wound swabbing varied widely between Trusts, from 2.4% in Trust 3 to 12.1% in Trust 2 (8.4% across the whole sample). Hence rates varied by a factor of 5 across Trusts, although the baseline proportion was low. Likewise, use of antibiotics varied widely. Again rates were lowest in Trust 3 (9.0%) and highest in Trust 2 (17.0%) – greater by a factor of 2. The rate for the whole sample was 12.6%. In all Trusts, swabbing was considerably more common in wounds showing no primary infection indicator (*Table 7*).

In all Trusts, the most commonly quoted treatment objective was protecting granulation, stated as a treatment objective in a majority of cases (ranging from 55.9% in Trust 5 to 66.1% in Trust 1). Quoted objectives were consistent across Trusts. In addition to protecting granulation, all five Trusts quoted protection of surrounding skin and managing exudate as key treatment objectives (*Table 7*).

Table 6. Wound characteristics (adapted from Fletcher, 2010).

Variable	Valid n (%) <sup>1</sup>
Wound healing status	4623
Deteriorating	424 (9.2)
Static	1303 (28.2)
Improving	2563 (55.4)
First visit	333 (7.2)
Primary wound appearance	3773
Necrotic	127 (3.4)
Granulating	1707 (45.7)
Overgranulating	88 (2.4)
Slough	918 (24.6)
Epithelialising	794 (21.3)
Other	99 (2.7)
Wound exudate level	4566
Dry	995 (21.8)
Moist	2356 (51.6)
Wet	864 (18.9)
Saturated	142 (3.1)
Leaking	208 (4.6)
Surrounding skin condition	4278
Dry	1841 (43.4)
Macerated	440 (10.4)
Excoriated	255 (6.0)
Inflamed	420 (9.9)
Healthy/Normal	1285 (30.3)
Wound infection indicators <sup>2</sup>	5225 <sup>2</sup>
Cellulitis	228 (4.8)
Increased pain	327 (6.9)
Malodour	284 (6.0)
Friable granulation	89 (1.9)
Abscess / pus	96 (2.0)
Increased exudate	361 (7.6)
Delayed healing	639 (13.4)
Pocketing	37 (0.8)
Erythema	217 (4.5)
Wound breakdown	200 (4.2)
Viscous surface layer	33 (0.7)
No indication of infection	2714 (56.9)
Wound infection indicators in patients recording ≥3 indicators <sup>3</sup>	1076 <sup>3</sup>
Cellulitis	85 (7.9)
Increased pain	184 (17.0)
Malodour	158 (14.6)
Abscess/pus	31 (2.9)
Increased exudate	194 (17.9)
Delayed healing	191 (17.7)
Pocketing	13 (1.2)
Erythema	96 (8.9)
Wound breakdown	123 (11.4)
Viscous surface layer	7 (0.7)
Wound size	3693 (77.4)
Wound length (cm) <sup>4</sup>	3.46 (4.24) <sup>4</sup>
Wound width (cm) <sup>4</sup>	2.42 (2.95) <sup>4</sup>

1. Unless indicated otherwise. 2. More than one infection indicator could be selected per patient. Percentages refer to full sample. A valid response to this question was recorded in 83.7% of cases. 3. Amongst 310 patients who had 3 or more infection indicators. 4. Mean (± standard deviation).

The incidence of the Doppler/ankle–brachial pressure index (ABPI) procedure also varied widely (by a factor of 3) between Trusts – from 48.4% in Trust 3 to 16.0% in Trust 5 (32.3% overall). The incidence of compression therapy varied by a factor of 2 between Trusts – from 31.2% in Trust 3 to 16.1% in Trust 4 (26.6% overall). In all Trusts, the majority of patients who received either the Doppler/ABPI procedure or compression therapy also received the second procedure (728 out of 1292 patients; 56.3%).

While in all Trusts the majority of dressings were changed weekly or twice-weekly, the proportions of dressings changed at this rate varied from 75.6% (Trust 5) to 62.5% (Trust 4), with an overall proportion of 70.2%. Remaining dressings were changed three or more times per week. For over half of all patients (2420; 55.0%), the primary reason for the dressing change was a routine care change, with individual proportions varying from 51.3% (Trust 5) to 60.9% (Trust 4).

Dressings changed because of expected wear time being reached (1331 patients; 27.9%) and because the dressing was saturated (720 patients; 15.1%) also amounted to a significant proportion of the reported reasons in both the individual Trusts and in the whole sample. No other reason for a dressing change was quoted in more than 10% of cases (Table 8).

Across all Trusts, practitioners formulated treatment plans that encompassed clear treatment objectives. These are presented in Figure 2.

## SUMMARY

This survey was performed across five English Trusts consisting of 4772 responses from practitioners involved in wound care activities. It was interesting to note that practitioners reported that those patients who were diagnosed as having venous leg ulcers also presented with vascular and cardiovascular conditions. This requires further investigation, as there may have been some level of misdiagnosis with ulcers being of mixed aetiology. If this is the case, there is an educational need to ensure that all practitioners are able to accurately assess and diagnose ulcer aetiologies and understand the importance of seeking guidance if there are any uncertainties regarding diagnosis.

Identification and management of infected wounds was explored in the survey and highlighted that clinical decision making varied between the

Table 7. Wound treatment factors.

Variable	Valid n (%)
Wound swabbing	4557
Yes	384 (8.4)
No	4173 (91.6)
Antibiotics	4500
Yes	566 (12.6)
No	3934 (87.4)
Treatment objectives <sup>1</sup>	10355 <sup>1</sup>
Protecting granulation	2804 (58.8)
Debridement of necrosis	1024 (21.5)
Manage bacterial burden	778 (16.3)
Rehydration of wound bed	354 (7.4)
Palliative	162 (3.4)
Manage exudate	2052 (43.0)
Protection of surrounding skin	2003 (42.0)
Managing wound pain	790 (16.6)
Minimise odour	388 (8.1)

<sup>1</sup> More than one treatment objective could be selected per patient. Percentages refer to full sample. A valid response to this question was recorded in 94.9% of cases.

Table 8. Dressing changes.

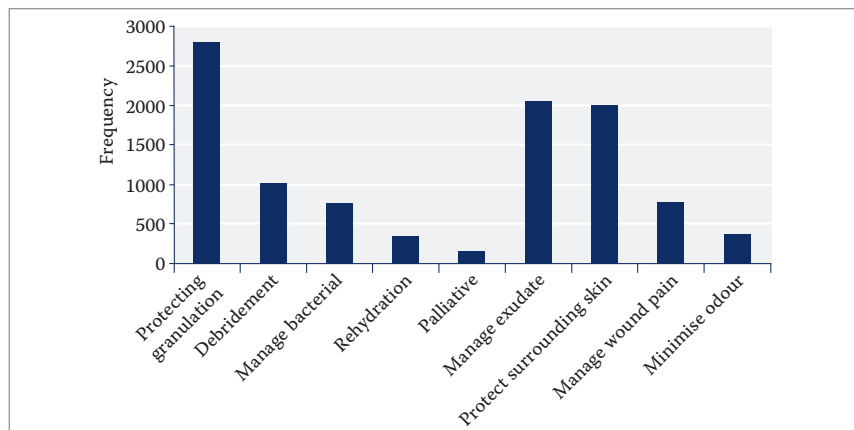
Variable	Valid n (%)
Frequency of dressing change	4610
More than daily	119 (2.6)
Daily	309 (6.7)
Alternate days	358 (7.8)
3 times per week	587 (12.7)
Weekly	1079 (23.4)
Twice weekly	2158 (46.8)
Reason for dressing change	54071
Dressing coming off	356 (7.5)
Scheduled care change	2517 (52.7)
Reaction to dressing	21 (0.4)
Patient expectation	160 (3.4)
Dressing saturated	720 (15.1)
Patient removal	171 (3.6)
Expected wear time	1331 (27.9)
Other	131 (2.7)

Note: More than one reason could be selected per patient. Percentages refer to full sample. A valid response to this question was recorded in 92.2% of cases.

Trusts when deciding whether to swab a wound, use an antimicrobial dressing or administer antibiotics. In all Trusts, swabbing was considerably more common in wounds showing no primary infection indicator. This finding suggests that more

*“In addition to protecting granulation, all five Trusts quoted protection of surrounding skin and managing exudate as key treatment objectives.”*

Figure 2. Wound treatment objectives.



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exploration is required as to which indicators of infection lead a practitioner to swab a wound or prescribe an antimicrobial wound dressing.

The impact of the ageing population was clearly identified in the workload of practitioners managing all wound types and the promotion of skin integrity. It was noted that over 50% of patients were over the age of 81 years. This relates to the figures produced by the Office of National Statistics (2011). Examination of the data has identified that there are a wide range of wound types that require assessment and treatment, with a percentage of these wound types being complex. If, as predicted, a large proportion of the health workforce retires by 2015, managers and tissue viability specialist practitioners will need to clearly identify the educational and skills needs of the workforce. This will include highlighting competencies that clinical practitioners will need to successfully develop and achieve that encompass both registered and unregistered staff. If workforce numbers do decrease, there will be a need to investigate and explore the feasibility of teaching patients and their families/carers to manage uncomplicated wounds when discharged to their home environment, thus ensuring that the wound is managed effectively and that patients, their families and carers understand how to promote skin integrity.



DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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APPENDIX I. Multicentre wound care survey form (based on Fletcher [2010]).

**A MULTI CENTRE WOUND CARE SURVEY**

Please only complete this form if the patient has a **NON** healed wound

1. **Patient Demographics – Please tick appropriate**  
 Male  Female   
 Age Under 14  14 – 49  50 – 64  65 – 74   
 75 – 80  81+  (Waterlow 1985) Age group categories used

2. **Profession**  
 a. Please state who decided treatment plan - please tick box or state other  
 Registered Nurse  Medi/GP  Specialist Nurse  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. Please state who changed the dressing today  
 Registered Nurse  Specialist Nurse  Support Worker  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 c. Please state the location of the treatment today  
 Patients Home  Community Clinic  GP Surgery  Nursing home   
 Hosp OPD  Hosp Ward

3. **Patient co morbidities**  
 Please tick as appropriate:  
 General Infection  Anaemia   
 Immunosuppressed  Malnutrition   
 Dermatological Conditions  Obesity   
 Vascular Disease  Diabetes   
 Cardio/Vascular Conditions  Palliative   
 Others please specify \_\_\_\_\_

4. **How many wounds in total does the patient have? – Please tick appropriate**  
 One  Two  Three  Four  Five   
 Six  Seven  Eight  More  Please specify \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*If the patient has more than one wound please complete a separate form for each wound from question 5 onwards. Please ensure you staple all forms together.

5. **Wound Type – Please tick one box only**  
 Pressure Ulcer  What is the category/stage/grade of the pressure ulcer?  
 1  Non blanching erythema of intact skin  
 2  Partial thickness skin loss  
 3  Full thickness skin loss  
 4  Potential extensive destruction, necrosis or damage to muscle, bone  
 Venous leg ulcer  Arterial leg ulcer  Skin tear   
 Mixed leg ulcer  Fungating lesion  Burn   
 Diabetic foot ulcer  Surgical wound  Moisture lesion   
 Traumatic wound  Cellulitis  Haematoma   
 Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

6. **Wound Location – Please tick appropriate**  
 Head/neck  Front torso  Back torso   
 Arm/hand  Buttock  Leg   
 Groin  Heel  Foot/toe   
 Other please specify \_\_\_\_\_

7. **Wound Duration – Please tick appropriate**  
 <2 weeks  2-6 Weeks  < 6 weeks   
 6 weeks – 3 months  3 - 6 months  6 months – 1 year   
 2 years – 5 years  5 years +  1 – 2 years

8. **Wound Healing – Please tick appropriate**  
 Deteriorating  Static  Improving  First visit

9. **Wound Size** - Please state the maximum length ( \_\_\_cm), maximum width ( \_\_\_cm) and depth (please tick) Superficial  deep  cavity of wound: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please state if there is any undermining present? Yes  No

10. **Wound bed appearance/tissue type** (Please tick most prevalent tissue type)  
 Necrotic (black brown)  Slough (cream yellow)   
 Granulating (red)  Epithelialising (pink)   
 Overgranulating  Other please state: \_\_\_\_\_

11. **Wound exudate level – Please tick appropriate**  
 Dry  Moist  Wet  Saturated   
 Please state the colour of the exudates \_\_\_\_\_ Leaking

12. **Surrounding skin condition – Please tick appropriate**  
 Dry  Macerated  Excoriated  Inflamed  Healthy   
 Other please specify \_\_\_\_\_

13. **Wound infection – Indicators – Please tick appropriate**  
 Cellulitis  Abscess/pus  Erythema   
 Increased pain  Increased exudate  Wound breakdown   
 Malodour  Delayed healing  Viscous surface layer   
 Friable granulation  Pockets at wound base  No indication of infection

14. **Wound swabbing** - Has the wound been swabbed in the last 7 days? Yes  No

15. **Antibiotics** - Is the patient currently taking antibiotics for wound infection? Yes  No

16. **Wound treatment objectives** (Please tick all that apply)  
 Protecting Granulation/Epithelialisation  Manage exudate   
 Debridement of Necrosis or Slough  Protection of surrounding skin   
 Manage Bacterial Burden  Managing Wound Pain   
 Rehydration of wound bed  Minimise odour   
 Palliative

17. **Dressing selection** - please list in order of application - 1<sup>st</sup> being wound contact layer, please write clearly in CAPITALS. Please state product name and generic group eg. MEPILEX / FOAM  
 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

18. Has advice been sought from TVN? Yes  No

19. **Compression therapy** - Has the patient had a Doppler / ABPI or other arterial investigations performed in the last 6 months: Yes  No   
 Is the patient having compression therapy? Yes  No   
 If yes please tick which is appropriate:  
 Compression bandage  Compression hosiery  reduced compression  Compression other

20. **Current frequency of dressing change – Please tick appropriate**  
 More than daily  Daily  Alternate days   
 3 times per week  Weekly  Twice weekly

21. **Reason for dressing change frequency – Please tick appropriate**  
 Dressing coming off  Patient  Patient removal   
 Scheduled care change  Dressing saturated  Expected wear time   
 Reaction to dressing  Other please specify \_\_\_\_\_

21a. Does the patient: Concord/comply with treatment? Yes  No  With lifestyle? Yes  No

Thank You for your time