

TO DEBATE WHY THE PATIENTS PERSPECTIVE AND THE WOUND RIGHTS IS OF IMPORTANCE IN WOUND MANAGEMENT

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The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was formalized in 1948. From this, the patients' rights developed with the premise that what is owed to the patient as a human being, by the physician and by the state is based on a basic understanding of what is owed to the person.

Patients' rights vary according to the country and the existing culture and social norms. There are at least 4 models that depict the relationships between the patient and physician and the citizen and the state: paternalistic model, informative model, interpretative model and deliberate model. Each suggests different professional responsibilities of the healthcare professional toward the patient and different roles of the patient.

Consensus exists that all patients have a fundamental right to privacy, to the confidentiality of their medical information, to consent to or to refuse treatment and to be informed about relevant risks to them of medical procedures. There is a responsibility therefore to provide access to quality healthcare, ensuring patients privacy and the confidentiality of their medical information, obtaining informed consent and providing a safe clinical environment. However, having rights in theory does not always translate to rights in practice.

Patient rights are applicable to those persons with wounds. In particular, individuals with chronic wounds who require prolonged and often recurrent engagement with the health services. This perspective will be explored in this EWMA key session with particular reference to the rights and responsibilities of patients as it applies to wound care.