

EVIDENCE — FOR GOOD AND BAD

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In recent years there has been much debate on the quality of evidence required to demonstrate that a new treatment is effective, particularly in the area of wound healing and management given the complex and debilitating nature of the underlying conditions of the patients we treat.

In an era where we need to encourage innovation in health care, to help address the growing crisis around the increasing number of elderly patients, we need to be sure that the time and effort dedicated to gathering evidence results in the highest quality data possible. In 2010 the EWMA Patient Outcome Group (POG) published recommendations to improve the quality of evidence in wound management.

As a companion piece of work, the EWMA POG has worked to provide a user-friendly document to assist those new to (or inexperienced in) research in starting on the path to plan, conduct, interpret and disseminate findings from a study that will improve our understanding of clinical wound healing and raise the evidence level of the work undertaken in this important area.

The target audience for this publication is hospital and community clinicians working collaboratively with other professions or industry. The text will take the format of a 'step by step' instruction manual to highlight activities to consider and outline frequent mistakes that many of us have made along the way – with the aim of helping novice researchers avoid making them, and improve the quality of studies that are undertaken.