



Home Care-Wound Care



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At the EWMA-GNEAUPP 2014 Conference in Madrid (14-16 May), EWMA is launching a new document that will highlight the challenges of managing and providing modern, advanced wound care outside the controlled clinical environment in patients' own homes. The Home Care-Wound Care document will be presented at a key session on Friday 16 May, 08:00-09:30.

With this document EWMA aims to generate critical discussion and debate regarding the prerequisites, conditions, and knowledge/skills of healthcare practitioners that are required to manage wounds at home. In addition, the document provides specific recommendations for wound care at home. These recommendations are presented from the organisational, patients', and health care professionals' points of view.

The background for Home Care-Wound Care is the dramatic shift in location of health care delivery from hospital towards the home care setting that has taken place during the past decade. Because health economic considerations have led to an earlier discharge of hospitalised patients¹, more patients with a complex pathological picture (including wounds) are being treated at home². The challenges of providing wound care in the home care setting is underscored by patient chronicity: 76% of patients with chronic wounds have three or more comorbid conditions including hypertension, vascular disease, and arthritis and up to 46% have diabetes³. Furthermore, evidence suggests that many patients receiving health care services at home never receive a diagnosis of wound aetiology^{2,4}.

EWMA has recognised that there is a paucity of research focusing on the subject of home care wound care from a clinical perspective^{2,4-7}. This gap can best be illustrated by the fact that there are no guidelines or recommendations of minimum requirements for providing best care to patients with wounds and their families in the home care setting.

With this background in mind, EWMA initiated the development of the Home Care-Wound Care document. To provide a multi-country perspective on the provision of home care wound care across Europe, we collaborated with the German Wound Association, Initiative Chronische Wunden e.V. (ICW), and British Tissue Viability Society (TVS), with support from the non-profit organisation HomeCare Europe.

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