

## EDUCATION



### **NEW WOUND CURRICULUM FOR NURSES – POST-REGISTRATION QUALIFICATION WOUND MANAGEMENT**

EWMA has just finalised the first curriculum in a series of several curricula intended for use in levels 5-7 of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). The aim of these is to support a common approach to post-registration qualification in wound management for nurses across Europe. EWMA hopes and will work towards a close collaboration with European nurse organisations as well as educational institutions to implement these common curricula.

The Wound Curriculum for Nurses as well the previously published Curriculum on Wound Healing for Physicians can be downloaded free of charge via <http://ewma.org/what-we-do/education/>

### **EWMA TEACHER NETWORK – CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

The EWMA Teacher Network is a network for wound management teachers across Europe. The primary objectives of the network are to increase the collaboration on objectives, structure and content of future wound management education and training in Europe, and to explore the possibilities for establishing a sustainable life-long learning training programme for nurse teachers.

Currently the network collaborates on an online survey which seeks to understand the current provision of Skin Health and Wound Management teaching as part of the current standard curriculum for undergraduate nurses across Europe. This survey is the first part of a wider European research project into Skin Health and Wound Management education for undergraduate nurses that is being undertaken by members of the network. The final phase of the project is to gather data on the experiences of student nurses in relation to Skin Health/Skin Integrity and Wound Management during their training to gauge how well prepared they feel for managing individuals with wounds.

The survey is initiated and led by the EWMA Teacher Network Chair, Samantha Holloway.

The EWMA Teacher Network meets annually during the EWMA Conference in May and will meet this year on 3 May at 11.45-13.15 during the EWMA 2017 Conference in Amsterdam.

For more information about the EWMA Teacher Network, please visit:  
[www.ewma.org/english/education/teacher-network.html](http://www.ewma.org/english/education/teacher-network.html)

## EWMA E-LEARNING MODULES ON BASIC WOUND MANAGEMENT

EWMA is currently finalising an e-learning course on the basics of wound care. With this we wish to support the provision of high quality wound care by healthcare professionals without specialist knowledge in wound care in hospitals, nursing homes and home care units.

The participants will become familiar with the basics of the management of acute and chronic wounds, including the following topics: Pathophysiology of Wounds, Wound Assessment, Treatment Options, Wound Infection, Debridement, Pain and Palliative Wound Care.

The full course is expected to be ready in Autumn 2017.

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## EWMA CREATING AWARENESS



It is a clear objective of EWMA to ensure that challenges in wound management are placed on the pan-European and national political agendas. For this reason, EWMA runs a number of activities aiming to create awareness about wounds and wound management among important stakeholders.

**Current advocacy activities include:**



### AWARENESS EVENT IN THE NETHERLANDS, AUTUMN 2017

An awareness event targeting politicians and other key stakeholders in the Netherlands will be held in September, as a follow up activity after the EWMA 2017 Conference in Amsterdam 3-5 May. It will be organised in collaboration with the Dutch Wound Platform.

**Key messages of the event include:**

- The organisational structure within wound care is not effective, because it is based on existing organisational lines.
- Patients' needs and quality of life are not taken into consideration sufficiently when buying wound materials.
- First line healthcare providers need to be educated more in order to provide wound care.

## EWMA CREATING AWARENESS



### JOINT EPUAP & EWMA PRESSURE ULCER PREVENTION & PATIENT SAFETY ADVOCACY PROJECT

This project aims to establish a joint EPUAP-EWMA focus on the pressure ulcer (PU) prevention and patient safety agendas at the European level, as well as at the national level, in selected European countries.

Currently the team is working on the following main activities:

- Elaboration of epidemiology overview based on existing European prevalence data. Presentation is expected at the EPUAP 2017 Conference, 20-22 September in Belfast.
- Collaboration and sharing of information with the chair of the OECD Health Care Quality Indicators Expert Group (HCQI). This work is expected to contribute to improving the focus on PU as a patient safety quality indicator.
- Follow-up to the first monthly report which the project has commissioned with the aim of being kept updated about activities of the European Parliament and European Commission regarding PU / wound care. The reports will be used to target activities and decision-makers to raise awareness about patient safety and call for preventive action against the development of pressure ulcers.

The project group includes:

- EPUAP representatives: Zena Moore (chair), Lisette Schoonhoven, Jane Nixon, Jan Kottner
- EWMA representatives: Andrea Pokorná, Jose Verdu Soriano, Hubert Vuagnat

The project is supported by an unrestricted grant from:



## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### EWMA HAS DEFINED THE FOLLOWING FOCUS TOPICS FOR THE PERIOD 2018-2019:

#### WOUNDS ACROSS THE LIFE SPAN

Not all wounds are the same and not all people respond to wounds in a similar manner. And so it is with wounds across the lifespan. EWMA has therefore decided to focus on the management of individuals with wounds in the two extremities of life:

- Neonatal and paediatric wound care is under-represented in the wound care literature and within the current EWMA activities. Yet, this population poses significant challenges in the types of wounds and the bodily response to healing. Despite this, neonatal and paediatric wound care dressing and practices are often based on extrapolation of adult-based guidelines while they should be applied considering specific skin features and structures.
- At the other end of the life span we have an increasing ageing population with altogether complex and different wound aetiologies of a more chronic nature, and a different response to healing. Given the generally aging population, there is an increasing need to understand how age influences wound healing and the different wound aetiologies that can be encountered at different life stages.

EWMA plans to publish two documents to cover these topics: One document on neonatal/paediatric wound management, and one on the management of geriatric wound patients. These documents will provide healthcare professionals with a resource that outlines the pathophysiology and recommended organisation of wound healing as it applies to these specific age groups. The author groups responsible for these documents will be defined in Autumn 2017.

#### ATYPICAL WOUNDS

This document will provide an overview of recent knowledge and evidence about atypical wounds, which in general terms are wounds which cannot be placed in the main wound categories. Amongst others they present a broad spectrum of conditions caused by inflammation, infection, malignancy, chronic illness or genetic disorder. Prevalence is not high (approx. 1-5 % of all wounds), but they constitute a significant proportion of wound patients especially in dermatological departments, and their considerable diagnostic delay and prolonged healing time has an enormous impact on patient Quality of Life.

The objectives of the document include providing an overview on the wounds typically considered atypical, presenting the diagnostic criteria, comorbidities and diagnostic tools for these wounds as well as the available best documented treatment options including immunosuppression and other modern/advanced wound healing therapies (e.g. NPWT). Further, the document will define the challenges and recommendations related to organisation of treatment and care and health economy.

The author group responsible for this document will be chaired by EWMA Council member Dr Kirsi Isoherranen, dermatologist and dermato-surgeon. The group will include members with different professional backgrounds relevant to achieving the objectives of the project. The document will be published during Spring 2019.

## EWMA DOCUMENTS IN PROGRESS



### PREVENTING AND MANAGING SURGICAL SITE INFECTIONS ACROSS HEALTH CARE SECTORS

#### Introduction and aim

While guidelines for preventing and managing surgical site infections (SSI) in hospitals are in place in many countries, there is still a need for guidance on how to deal with SSI management and prevention in community care. A set of recommendations on this topic covering primary as well as secondary care, and targeting healthcare professionals in hospital as well as community-based nurses and general practitioners (GPs), does not yet exist.

EWMA has therefore decided to focus on surgical site infections and initiate a project based on broad interdisciplinary collaboration which will also link to other current EWMA initiatives such as:

- The on-going EWMA Antimicrobial Stewardship Programme
- The NPWT document published in Summer 2016
- The Home Care Wound Care document published in 2014, with regards to SSI prevention and management in community care

Additional information about these programmes and documents can be found at [www.ewma.org/what-we-do/ewma-projects/](http://www.ewma.org/what-we-do/ewma-projects/)

#### Objectives

The main objectives of the EWMA SSI project are to:

- Map the SSI incidence, prevalence and high risk areas, based on published information and data available from SSI registries.
- Present the available modern techniques for prevention and treatment of surgical site infections, including assessment of cost effectiveness, patient mobility, pain etc.
- Provide best practice recommendations for SSI management and prevention in hospitals and community care.

#### Author group

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## ADVANCED THERAPIES IN WOUND MANAGEMENT

With the “Advanced Therapies in Wound Management” initiative, EWMA wish to investigate the barriers and possibilities of advanced therapies in the next generation of wound management. The project will include the publication of a focus document providing an overview of the available advanced therapies and their potential role in clinical practice. These will include the available technologies based on cellular therapies, tissue engineering and tissue substitutes, which are all technologies associated with the clinical discipline of regenerative medicine, as well as new treatments based on physical therapies and the potential of sensors and software.

The overall aims of the document are to

- Provide healthcare professionals who are interested in investigating new treatment options with a neutral and exhaustive source of information.
- Provide a point of referral for future discussions and negotiations with healthcare providers and payers.

### Author group

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