

RATIONAL EFFECTIVE PRESCRIBING OF ADVANCED WOUND CARE DRESSINGS – THE ROLE OF PHARMACY IN LEADING, DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING THE CHANGE

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Aim: Advanced wound care (AWC) dressings play a pivotal role in modern chronic wound care. Yet, there are many factors that may obstruct their utilization in such conditions, these may include: cost, available evidence, user knowledge and its implementation, lack of follow up, differences between community and secondary care formularies and guidelines and marketing issues. To overcome these barriers the pharmacy department in Hillel Yaffe Medical Center decided to devise and implement a strategy to promote rational effective prescribing of such products.

Methods: A comprehensive literature search was performed these was followed by the establishment of a multidisciplinary committee (nurse, vascular surgeon, pharmacist) that examined the following criteria:

1. Direct and indirect costs, mainly nursing times.
2. Evidence based guidelines
3. Selecting vendors that hold comprehensive product lines (both general wound care and AWC) as well as having clinical, technical and educational support.
4. Selecting products that will promote seamless care between the hospital and community.
5. Advancement and developments of new products.

Results: In order to meet the above criteria the pharmacy department focused and implemented the following:

1. Predetermined formulary and guideline publication and dissemination.
2. Selecting two vendors in a tender, thus maximizing competition and financial savings for the institute as well as promoting seamless care.
3. Enhancing users' knowledge via internal continuous education programs.
4. Establishing minimum stock levels in the pharmacy and the hospital departments using just in time concept thus promoting efficient wound care.
5. Pharmacy "Dressings support" hotline for users' queries and feedback.
6. Controlling expensive items with pre authorization and pharmacy consultation.

Discussion: The use of pharmacy as knowledge based support center may be successful in the introduction of rational and effective AWC dressings prescribing.