

CHANGE IN PREVALENCE OF WOUNDS IN HOME CARE BETWEEN 2005 AND 2008 IN MÖLNDAL COMMUNITY, SWEDEN

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Aim: To assess the prevalence, type of wounds and their impact on workload in home care 2005 and 2008 in Mölndal community, pop 59 000.

Methods: All nursing homes and patients with home care were visited by a nurse. The prevalence of wounds, wound type, frequency of dressing changes and time used for dressing change were registered.

Results: The frequency of wounds in home care have increased between 2005 and 2008, 63 (997) to 119(965). Time used for treatment has increased from 71h/week to 148 h/week, giving an increased workload for home care staff. 53/119 wounds transferred to community care had no diagnose when transferred from hospital care. Wound types other than pressure ulcers and ulcers on the lower extremity increased between the years, predominantly infected wounds, postop wounds and malignant wounds.

Discussion: The prevalence of wounds in home care and community care are increasing. Reduced time in hospital stay resulting in early transferral to community care. Wounds often not the primary cause for hospital stay thereby overseen when transferred and no planning for further treatment done. Wounds have an increasing impact on community care cost, Cost effective care, diagnose, focus on healing and organisation is essential for meeting the new demands.