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WHY IS EWMA INTERESTED IN IMPLEMENTATION?

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Wounds and their associated problems have challenged practitioners for centuries, despite this longevity, neither the prevalence nor incidence of wounds is reducing. If one could use the example for the work of Winter, as the birth of modern wound management, it forms a basis for reflection and consideration of where we are, how we got here and where we would like to be. Since the work of Winter in the early 1960's, there has been an enormous growth in the number of new wound technologies available, in tandem with this has also been a significant development in education and training in this arena. This suggests that as practitioners we should be in an ideal position to always provide effective, efficient wound management to all our patients. The reality is somewhat different, however, with many barriers in existence, which challenge our wound management practices.

It is based on this premise that EWMA began to explore the reasons why the knowledge and technologies available are not always implemented into the clinical arena. The underlying premise being, that we know the problems and in many cases also know the solutions, but somehow there is often a large gap between theory and the daily practice of wound management. Fundamentally, investment in research and development and in educational strategies is fruitless if they are not implemented into clinical practice. Therein lies a significant challenge, can we agree on the exact endpoints which are important in determining efficacy and efficiency, further, can we all agree on the ideal methods for implementing best practice, and in doing so, agree on the appropriate outcome measures, at a European and wider International level?

This presentation will explore why EWMA is interested in implementation and will, in doing so, provide some interesting food for thought, which we may all reflect upon and consider in our daily practice of wound management.