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EXPLORING THE BARRIERS TO ADOPTION OF NEGATIVE PRESSURE WOUND THERAPY IN THE COMMUNITY SETTING

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Aim:To explore community tissue viability specialist’s (TVN’s) experiences and attitudes towards the use of NPWT in community settings.

Method: A literature review was undertaken to identify themes and a discussion guide was drawn up prior to the meeting to act as an aide memoir on the day. Invitations to participate were sent to 20 practitioners. The focus group was conducted in a single session with 9 TVN’s and lasted for 4hours. It was carried out in compliance with relevant ethical guidelines, participant consent was taken to record the discussion using MP4 players. Three researchers were present one of whom chaired the meeting, the others took notes. The recordings were transcribed verbatim independent of the researchers and compared to the written notes taken on the day for validity.

Results: Data analysis identified numerous themes most notably untimely referrals; cost implications and mutual benefit and understanding with relation to professional and patient experience / attitude.

Conclusions / Discussion: The focus group interview highlighted that NPWT may help to improve patient care and decrease costs associated with numbers of visits. It was stressed that there was a need for clear inclusion and exclusion criteria specific to NPWT use in a community setting. The following inclusion and exclusion criteria were proposed (see table 1).

Table 1: Inclusion – Exclusion Criteria for use of NPWT	
Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
Wound assessment	Contraindications
Support	Psychological elements
Patient issues	Home environment