



EWMA Education Committee

Module descriptor:  
Introduction to  
Wound Management



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Latest revision: October 2016



## **ABOUT THE EWMA EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

The Programme is designed to assist students and healthcare professionals who work with patients with wounds and related skin conditions and wish to develop and/or increase their knowledge and skills in order to meet patient needs.

Overall, the Programme aims to:

- Provide students and healthcare professionals with the knowledge and skills to equip them to perform their role in the delivery of optimal wound care.
- Provide contemporary, interdisciplinary, product/brand neutral wound management education that is endorsed by EWMA.
- Provide quality standards against which other organisations can evaluate existing wound management programmes.
- Achieve European acceptance by developing an educational framework that is in line with European Commission educational initiatives in order to disseminate best practice in wound care.

## **ABOUT THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

The Curriculum Development Project is at the heart of the Educational Development Programme. The aim of the Project is to develop a flexible curriculum, consisting of a number of modules.

All modules are based on a standard template but individually focused on a specific aspect of wound management. Each module is developed by a small group consisting of members of the EWMA Education Committee and/or affiliated wound care key specialists. For an updated list of the currently available modules please visit the education sub page at [www.ewma.org](http://www.ewma.org).

## **ABOUT THIS MODULE**

The Introduction to Wound Management module aims to:

- Broaden participant's knowledge and understanding of the principles of epidemiology, physiology, pathophysiology, assessment and management of wounds.
- Evaluate strategies to promote effective inter-professional collaborative working for patients with wounds.



## MODULE CONTENT

### 1. Elaborating Body

European Wound Management Association (EWMA)

### 2. Date of production of module

June 2004

### 3. Latest review date

October 2016

### 4. Module intended learning outcomes

This module provides opportunities for health professionals to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the following areas:

#### **A. Intellectual Skills – Knowledge and Understanding**

Participants will have knowledge of the:

1. Physiology of wound repair and the body's response to injury.
2. Physiological differences between acute and chronic wounds<sup>1</sup>.
3. Epidemiology of different wounds.
4. Assessment of the patient with wounds and factors that delay wound healing and compromise tissue viability.
5. Broad range of wound management treatments.
6. Psychosocial impact wounding has on the individual and society.
7. Organisation of interdisciplinary services available for the assessment and management of patients with wounds.
8. Regulatory affairs and economic issues as well as the medico/legal considerations in organising wound management services.

#### **B. Practical Skills – Skills and Attributes:**

Participants will be able to:

1. Perform a holistic assessment and provide the appropriate documentation of the care of a patient with a wound.
2. Assess the wound and surrounding skin.

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<sup>1</sup> In some countries also called non *healing wounds*, *hard to heal wounds*, *difficult to heal wounds*, *slow healing wounds* (simply wounds with delayed healing). Acute wounds are wounds that heals physiologically.



3. Make effective treatment decisions, initiate further investigations and know when to refer to specialist services.
4. Monitor and evaluate treatment outcomes.
5. Identify the psychosocial impact that wounding has on the individual and the carers.
6. Evaluate the provision of multidisciplinary services for the assessment and management of patients with wounds.

## **5. Teaching/learning methods & strategies**

Acquisition of 4.A & 4.B (see above) is through a combination of lectures, small group workshops and learning in practice throughout the module. There is also the possibility of using e-learning in combination with traditional learning methods. Throughout, the learner is encouraged to undertake independent study both to supplement and consolidate what is being taught and to broaden individual knowledge and understanding of the subject.

## **6. Assessment methods**

Assessment methods will need to vary for each professional group. Understanding will be assessed in a variety of ways i.e. open discussion, formal written exercises, case studies, practice work-books, and assessment of practical skills or other appropriate assessment methods. Throughout, the learner is expected to consolidate the development of practical skills / management skills in the clinical setting.

## **7. Unit content**

### **A. Overview / epidemiology**

Prevalence and incidence of acute and chronic wounds

National/International guidelines

The financial costs associated with wound care

Indirect costs and quality of life

Economical evaluation in wound care

Auditory / quality of care

### **B. Anatomy**

Skin and associated structures

Function of cells associated with wound healing, e.g. neutrophils and fibroblasts

### **C. Pathophysiology**

The physiology of wound healing and tissue repair

Physiological differences between acute & chronic wounds

Factors associated with delayed wound healing



#### **D. Principles of patient care**

Holistic assessment, e.g. physical, psychological, social  
Identification of patient centred management objectives  
Care planning and documentation  
Evaluation of outcomes  
Use of evidence based practice/clinical guidelines  
Referral criteria  
Interdisciplinary team working  
Ethical / Legal implications  
Reimbursement

#### **E. Assessment**

General assessment process e.g. patient factors, lifestyle factors  
Local wound assessment process e.g. wound bed preparation  
Differential diagnosis – acute and chronic wounds  
Skin assessment e.g. allergies, dermatitis, pressure ulcer risk assessment  
Investigations e.g. haematological and biochemical tests, urinalysis, biopsy, x-ray

#### **F. Wound management**

Wound management strategies including the use of wound management products and adjunct therapies  
Assessment of wound bed, surrounding skin  
Principles of wound cleansing  
Selection of wound cleansing agents  
Wound bed preparation including debridement, management of inflammation/infection moisture balance and stimulation of the wound margin  
Pain management to ensure effective assessment and evaluation of outcomes including the use of analgesia  
Dressing selection including product availability relative to local circumstances and different healthcare settings  
Care of the surrounding skin e.g. contact dermatitis, avoidance of trauma/skin stripping, maceration, blistering, allergies  
Advanced wound care products/techniques  
The use of guidelines and evidence-based practice to treat wounds  
Evidence base to support complementary wound therapies e.g. aromatherapy



### **G. Management of Infection**

Assessment/presentation - clinical signs/symptoms, silent infection

Superficial infections, cellulitis and sepsis

Deep infections - surgical drainage

Methods of identifying infecting agents - culture and swab techniques, biopsy

Radiological and other investigations – Isotope scans, Magnetic Resonance Scans

Management of MRSA and other multi-resistant organisms

Use of topical antiseptics - indications, type and duration of treatment

Biofilms – diagnosis and treatment

Dressings (e.g. silver, iodine, honey)

Adjunct therapies: their relevance and practical application

### **H. Specialist Interventions**

Referral criteria for specialist assessment, e.g. plastic surgery, dermatology

### **I. Systemic and local pharmacological management**

Analgesia e.g. local, systemic

Nutritional supplements e.g. mineral and vitamin supplementation

Antibiotic therapy for infection - indications, type and duration of treatment

### **J. Rehabilitation services**

Structure and management of wound care services

Integrated hospital and community care

Specialized wound care clinics

Multi-disciplinary, multi-professional approach

Patient follow-up services

### **K. Psychosocial, behavioural, cultural and ethical aspects of care**

Impact of wounds on the individual, carers & society – quality of life issues

Factors affecting adherence to treatment including case examples of individuals who have effectively failed to comply with treatment strategies

Advantage of using quality of life instruments specific for people with wounds

Effective patient education strategies

Caregiver's education and support



## 8. Unit specific learning resources

### Books

### Journals

### Web links

EWMA Documents, [www.ewma.org](http://www.ewma.org)

## 9. EWMA specific regulations

In order to achieve EWMA accreditation/certification the following conditions must be satisfied and the following provided:

- Suitable teaching venue i.e. educational institution, hospital, clinic;
- Adequate learning resources i.e. audio-visual aids;
- Delivery pattern suitable to target audience i.e. day release, evening, study blocks;
- A module/course leader who is responsible for overall management/ organisation;
- Appropriate administrative support;
- All presenters must have appropriate expertise to deliver content pertinent to the specialist area;
- Educational content must present a balanced overview of all aspects of treatment modalities;
- Educational content and materials must be product/brand neutral;
- Educational content must be separated from any promotional activity;
- A register of attendance must be maintained by the local host;
- Participants will only be eligible for a certificate of attendance if they have attended the entire taught component and have completed an evaluation form.