



WMAI Wound Management Association of Ireland

www.wmai.ie

The Wound Management Association of Ireland (WMAI) is sub-divided into five local regions:

[Dublin/Wicklow](#)
[Midlands Regional](#)
[Northern Region](#)
[Southern Region](#)
[Western Region](#)

WMAI – Ireland

The Wound Management Association of Ireland (WMAI) was established in 1996 when a group of health care professionals gathered together to explore their ideas of how to promote best practice in wound care in Ireland. The WMAI is a voluntary, not for profit organisation whose main objectives are:

- To promote a multi-professional approach to Wound Management
- To promote the highest standard of Wound Management through education
- To promote research into all aspects of Wound Management
- To disseminate reports and publications relating to the work of the association

The executive committee is made up of 15 members 3 from each region. Recently Julie Jordan O'Brien was nominated as president and Georgina Gethin, who has completed a four-year term as president, has remained on the executive committee as treasurer.

The Membership fee is € 30. Members can avail themselves of an education grant annually of € 5,000 for research/education purposes. A quarterly newsletter is also available to allow members keep up to date with current information in wound care. WMAI is available on Facebook and LinkedIn and you can contact us on our web page at www.wmai.ie

Currently the WMAI is updating the website to allow easier access for all members. We hope to set up a password protected discussion forum to allow clinical staff to share their ideas and experiences.

15th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Our 15th Biennial conference took place in the Galway Bay Hotel in Galway in October 2011. This two-day conference was well attended with over 280 delegates from across all disciplines. We had many international/national speakers and covered a variety of topics including palliative wound care, the psychological impact of pain, and surgical management of chronic wounds. Workshops included Assessment of the Diabetic Foot, Wound Care for the Novice and Repositioning for Pressure Prevention. The feedback was very positive and we are already looking forward to our next conference in October 2013 in Cork.

NATIONAL GUIDELINES AND EDUCATIONAL WOUND CARE PROGRAMME

In 2009 National Wound Guidelines were launched in Ireland. WMAI continues to promote these guidelines across the country. The guidelines are available on CD and can thus be quickly downloaded to all clinical areas. In addition, educational sessions are conducted

within organisations to try to disseminate the guidelines effectively. A working group was established to develop an educational wound care programme for nurses working in both acute and community settings. We believe that accurate assessment and diagnosis followed by a clear plan of care, which is both implemented and evaluated, are essential in achieving good clinical outcomes for patients.

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR WOUND MANAGEMENT PRODUCTS

A National Wound Management Committee was established in January 2011 in order to establish a national framework agreement for wound management products. The role of this team is to identify, procure and implement a National Framework Agreement for Wound Management Products. The purpose is to meet the current and future needs of patients and service users in a responsive, quality oriented, cost effective and flexible manner, in compliance with the established 2009 Health Service Executive (HSE) National Wound Management Guidelines. The scope of this framework includes HSE hospitals, Primary Care Reimbursement Schemes (PCRS), voluntary and funded agencies that will present to the market as a single procurement entity.

Our objective is to standardise the supply of quality products whilst obtaining value for money in order to ensure sustainability of services in the current economic climate. The WMAI wishes to ensure an integrated care path for patients between acute and primary care by encompassing community reimbursement requirements.

Currently the National Framework is being finalised and will be available for healthcare professionals and suppliers. The successful suppliers will be placed on a National Framework Agreement from which contracts will be awarded from subsequent mini-competitions or on the basis of the proposals received at the establishment of the framework.

CONCLUSION

The WMAI is an active organisation going from strength to strength. We believe that we have the will and the expertise to lead research and education in wound management and tissue viability in Ireland. We are looking forward to developing further research projects for 2012. Our collaboration with EWMA is very important to us; we value their support to date and look forward to further cooperation in the future.

Julie Jordan O'Brien, President WMAI