

Dear wound professional,

HELP US IMPLEMENT EXCELLENT WOUND MANAGEMENT

Continuously improving healthcare provisioning in wound care is extremely important. In an area where successful treatment depends on multidisciplinary teamwork, we need to examine how wound care can be organised and executed to ensure simple, smart and efficient treatment of the patient. The Swedish national quality Registry for Ulcer Treatment (RiksSår) model consists of a simple but ground-breaking approach to wound healing and management of hard-to-heal ulcers (showing increased healing rates, decreased healing time and antibiotics usage), and an e-health solution.

BACKGROUND

This flyer has been developed by the project consortium behind *Optimising Patient and Health Economic Outcomes in Swedish Wound Care Practice*, a project led by representatives from RiksSår, the University Hospital of Malmö and the European Wound Management Association (EWMA). The overall objective is to provide an up-to-date status review of Swedish wound care including:

- Document how effective and improved wound care strategies can reduce healing times, costs and antibiotics use
- Show how barriers to introducing new treatment strategies can be overcome by organising the approach to wound care in an increasingly multidisciplinary way
- Survey and gather health economic data regarding management, outcomes and resource utilisation of hard-to-heal ulcers in Sweden

HOW TO GET STARTED?

The take-home messages below present important concepts and a good foundation for the provision of excellent wound management. To get started, your facility needs to take the following steps:

- Decide what you want to accomplish and identify the gaps and challenges
- Identify the key decision-makers in your organisation – from whom do you need support?
- Define your objectives

Depending on your goals, you can use these concepts for different types of organisations, varying from a small team that needs to define standardised procedures for their work, to establishing a complete wound healing centre.

TAKE-HOME MESSAGES

What provides the foundation for best practice for patients and staff? The solution is to organise structured work processes and set up wound management teams. This means providing the following:

Organisation: Follow the 'golden standard' protocols developed by RiksSår

- Continuity: The same nurse follows the patient during treatment until complete healing
- Get access to wound expertise through the Dermicus Wound app
- Use the quality registry (RUT) to document what is being done and follow up on ulcer healing (the state of the ulcer)

Education: Recognise that interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary wound care improves outcomes in terms of resource utilisation, treatment efficacy, patient quality of life and ease of suffering

- Maintain on-going training of ALL staff involved in treatment in hospital, community and primary care; this is available through RiksSår's webinars, national seminars, workshops, in-app e-learning modules and more
- Develop competencies and practical skills through RiksSår's e-learning platform
- Use resources already developed and readily available in combination with the RiksSår model and the Dermicus Wound app, a national digital decision support system with a proven track record:
 - Reduced healing time, pre-diagnosis time, adequate treatment duration, antibiotics use and overall costs
 - Improved quality of life for patients, continuity of care, enabling of equal patient care and increased multidisciplinary collaboration

Implementation: Engage with the key stakeholders in your organisation and present the results that RiksSår has achieved through its model based on well-developed, evidence-based treatment strategies

- Look at the problem - what is missing or suboptimal in the care being delivered?
- Begin at a level with which you are comfortable and can manage - you can always scale up to include more and different patients
- Talk about what could be improved - get your co-workers, staff and managers interested and obtain endorsement from the decision-makers (GP, department head, etc.)

Go to EWMA's YouTube channel 'EWMAwound' to find videos with Dr Rut Öien, the founder of RiksSår, and Dr Jan Apelqvist of the University Hospital of Malmö. Here they explain how they work successfully with wound care.