

# EWMA WOUND CENTRE ENDORSEMENTS

## Introduction & procedure

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### INTRODUCTION

The overarching goal of the EWMA Wound Centre Endorsement Programme is to support the continuing establishment of high quality wound centres that acknowledge the need for multidisciplinary teamwork and evidence-based management in wound care.

A working group including wound care experts with prior experience developing wound care centres in different European countries has defined a set of criteria as well as a procedure for wound centre endorsements. These criteria cover the centre's physical facilities, procedures and equipment available for diagnosis and treatment, organisation and staff, referral routes as well as research and educational activities.

The criteria for wound centre endorsements have been developed for two types of wound centres:

- Wound centres based inside of a hospital and including an in-patient ward.
- Out-patient wound centres based outside of hospitals (no inpatient ward and no direct access to hospital facilities)

With this programme, EWMA also aims to support international collaboration and knowledge sharing about development and maintenance of high quality wound centres.

### BENEFITS OF THE APPLICANT

If the wound centre is evaluated and approved for EWMA endorsement, the centre will:

- Have the right to use the “Wound centre endorsed by EWMA logo” on any relevant material developed and disseminated by the centre\*;
- Receive an official endorsement certificate, providing official documentation of the endorsement;
- Make your institution more visible in the international community of wound specialised health care professionals;
- Demonstrate the qualities/excellence of your centre, documented via a centre review report;
- Receive advice/proposals for further improvements of the services provided by your centre;
- Get the opportunity to network and share experiences with other wound centres based in countries throughout the world<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that EWMA's wound centre endorsement programme was established in Autumn 2015, and that the networking activities will be developed as more centres are included in the programme.



**\*Please note that the following rules for use of the “Wound centre endorsed by EWMA” logo and title apply:**

The name of the wound centre cannot be directly linked with EWMA. All use of the EWMA name and logo by the centre must state only that the centre is *endorsed* by EWMA.

EWMA can not, on the basis of the endorsement, be held responsible for the services offered by the centre. EWMA aims to define a procedure for confirming that the basis for a good wound centre is in place and for offering consultancy and knowledge sharing, aiming to ensure a continued high level of services.

The director of the wound centre will be responsible for ensuring that the basis for the endorsement evaluation provided to the reviewer (Application template including a definition of the centres’ facilities and services, and the official endorsement visit to the centre) is accurate and maintained as presented during the endorsement process.

A re-endorsement procedure is requested every 3<sup>rd</sup> year.

## COLLABORATION WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

EWMA is happy to collaborate with industry driven programmes aiming to establish wound centres in various parts of the world, with regards to coordination of the endorsement related activities.

The evaluation procedure will be carried out by EWMA. This may be done in collaboration with a partner organisation representing wound care specialists in the given country.

## ENDORSEMENT PROCEDURE - STEPS

The EWMA endorsements<sup>2</sup> of wound centres are carried out in a four step process, with a fifth step covering possible re-endorsement with three years intervals:

### Endorsement process description:

#### 1. Initial application

An initial application/pre-endorsement is carried out via the completion of an application form in the format of a wound centre report template , aiming to describe the facilities, structure and services offered by the centre in a standardised way. The application form must be supported by documentation, as suggested in the application form. The objective of this is to increase the amount of information provided via the application form as well as strengthen the value of the application.

For further information, please see the EWMA Wound Centre Endorsement Application form for “Hospital based centres” and “Non hospital based centres”.

#### 2. Review of centre data provided via the application form & follow up dialogue

A reviewer appointed by EWMA reads/views the completed application form and available documentation with the objective to evaluate whether the described facilities, structures and services offered meet the endorsement requirements defined by EWMA.

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<sup>2</sup>The endorsement of EWMA is an evaluation of the basis needed to provide high-quality wound care from a EWMA perspective. Thus, EWMA does not take any responsibility for the quality of care performed, but only for the framework for treatment and care available according to the reports of the centre and the evaluation performed during the centre visit.



In case the reviewer find that some requirements are not met, or he/she has questions about the replies provided by the responsible contact in the wound centre, the centre may receive some follow up questions that should be answered, or a request to change certain facilities, procedures or services. In case changes are demanded, an updated application form must be developed for evaluation.

Telephone meetings may be arranged during which the contact person appointed by the centre has an opportunity to further explain the conditions described in the application.

If the pre-endorsement is given, a visit to the clinic will be arranged.

### **3. Visit to the wound centre**

A wound centre visit and on site evaluation by a wound care expert with expertise/experience in wound centre establishment is carried out 1-3 months after the pre-endorsement has been achieved. The expert responsible for the visit is appointed by EWMA.

The visit will have 1-2 days duration, depending on the type and size of the centre (typically 2 days for hospital based centres). The objective of the visit is to evaluate the key facilities and services of the centre in the context of the daily clinical work. During the visit, the centre staff is asked to arrange that the reviewer can:

- Follow and evaluate the patient procedures used in the centre;
- Visit and evaluate the surgical facilities in the centre/collaborating referral hospital;
- Meet the staff employed directly by the centre;
- Evaluate the diagnostic, treatment and prophylaxis procedures used in the centre;
- Visit selected primary collaborating hospital departments/referral hospital.

### **4. Final report & endorsement**

Based on the visit, an evaluation report will be produced by the reviewer (EWMA). The report will include key points from the evaluation of the centre (Evaluation of the general level of care provided by the centre) and proposed/ required, changes to the current facilities and services provided. The report will state whether the centre can be granted a EWMA endorsement. The report will be received maximum two months after the endorsement visit to the centre.

An official endorsement certificate will be prepared for the endorsed centre, and the centre will have the right to use the “Wound centre endorsed by EWMA logo” on any relevant material developed and disseminated by the centre.

### **5. Re-endorsement**

To maintain the status as EWMA endorsed wound centre, a re-endorsement is required every third year. An updated application form must be submitted and supported by updated documentation including, for example, actual patient numbers and data based on specific outcome measures (may be defined in collaboration between EWMA and the centre to ensure relevance).

A follow up visit will be carried out in connection with the re-endorsement.

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## FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about the EWMA Wound Centre Endorsement Programme, please contact Julie Bjerregaard, EWMA Secretariat, [jb@ewma.org](mailto:jb@ewma.org) or [ewma@ewma.org](mailto:ewma@ewma.org).



The development of this endorsement procedure was supported by an unrestricted grant from the Coloplast Access to Health Care programme.