University of Huddersfield Repository

Ousey, Karen, Atkin, Leanne, Milne, Jeanette and Henderson, Val

Exploring the role of the tissue viability nurse

Original Citation


This version is available at http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/26129/

The University Repository is a digital collection of the research output of the University, available on Open Access. Copyright and Moral Rights for the items on this site are retained by the individual author and/or other copyright owners. Users may access full items free of charge; copies of full text items generally can be reproduced, displayed or performed and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided:

- The authors, title and full bibliographic details is credited in any copy;
- A hyperlink and/or URL is included for the original metadata page; and
- The content is not changed in any way.

For more information, including our policy and submission procedure, please contact the Repository Team at: E.mailbox@hud.ac.uk.

http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/
EXPLORING THE ROLE OF THE TISSUE VIABILITY NURSE

DR KAREN OUSEY

ASSOC PROF KAREN OUSEY
ADVANCING CLINICAL PRACTICE, DIVISION OF
PODIATRY AND CLINICAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF
HUDDERSFIELD

LEANNE ATKIN
VASCULAR NURSE SPECIALIST,
MID YORKSHIRE NHS TRUST, LECTURER/
PRACTITIONER UNIVERSITY OF HUDDERSFIELD

JEANETTE MILNE
TISSUE VIABILITY NURSE SPECIALIST, SOUTH
TYNESIDE FOUNDATION TRUST

VAL HENDERSON
TISSUE VIABILITY NURSE SPECIALIST, NORTHUMBRIA
HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION TRUST

COMPLEXITIES OF THE TVN ROLE

COST EFFECTIVENESS
- Wound Management Formulary
- Healing Rates
- Pathway Development
- Admission Avoidance
- Audit
- Reducing Length of Stay

PATIENT CARE
- Skin Integrity
- Prevention
- Diagnosis
- Management
- Advanced Practice
- Specialist Advice

EDUCATION
- Local
- Regional
- National
- International
- Research
- Publication

PATIENT SAFETY
- Governance, Policy and Procedure
- CQUINS
- Surgical Site Infection/Infection Control
- Standard Setting
- Safety Thermometer
- Root Cause Analysis

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
- Defining Equipment
- Specification
- Partnership with Procurement
- Monitoring Outcomes
- Resource Allocation
- Cost

METHOD
A literature review exploring the evidence discussing the role of the Tissue Viability nurse/specialist was undertaken. Forty six (46) papers were retrieved. Studies were eligible for inclusion if they included information on the Tissue Viability role. Papers were excluded if they focused on the advanced nurse role.

RESULTS
Analysis of the literature review highlighted that there had been no investigation into the Tissue Viability role since 2003, aside from a few editorials discussing the role. There are a plethora of job titles used for the role with nurse and specialist being used interchangeably.

There has been some discussion that Tissue Viability should be aligned with a medical specialty, for example, dermatology (White, 2008) to increase the profile.

Tissue Viability specialists need to debate the role, develop clear and achievable competencies, an educational framework, a job title that is consistently used and research that supports the role. This paper will deliberate these concepts.

CONCLUSIONS
There is a lack of definition of the TVN role. An absence of valid and reliable tools that can be used to measure the effectiveness of the Tissue Viability service. A lack of standardised audit tools from which to work with no nationally accepted job descriptions that incorporate the totality of the TVN post with the diversity of pay bands across the UK.

We need to reconsider the educational standards required of the post holder, if the post demands business acumen in addition to clinical skills and knowledge, should a TVN be expected to hold a business degree? The TVN is also expected to be able to critically understand, analyse, appraise and implement relevant research into clinical practice as such, should they as a minimum, hold a Masters Qualification?

REFERENCE