University of Huddersfield Repository

Stephenson, John, Ousey, Karen, Barrett, Simon, King, Brenda and Morton, Nicky

Preparing to meet the challenge of promoting skin integrity in an aging population: Results of a 5-trust wound care survey across England

Original Citation


This version is available at http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/id/eprint/19050/

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/
Preparing to meet the challenge of promoting skin integrity in an aging population

Results of a 5-trust wound care survey across England

1Dr John Stephenson, 1Dr Karen Ousey, 2Simon Barrett, 3Brenda King, 4Nicky Morton

1School of Human and Health Sciences, University of Huddersfield
2Humber NHS Foundation Trust
3Sheffield NHS Foundation Trust
4Lancashire NHS Foundation Trust
• UK population currently increasing in age and size
• Aging workforce of health/social care sector
  – Large proportion due to retire by 2015
• Need for current TVN’s to understand current prevalence and categories of wounds, treatments, grades of staff assessing and caring for wounds
  – Ensure that interventions are timely and effective
The survey

• Results of a wound care survey from five English Trusts conducted in 2012-13 presented

• Survey aimed to identify and quantify:
  – demographic characteristics of patients receiving wound treatment;
  – treatment objectives;
  – wound types, duration and characteristics.

• Local research governance applied for and successfully received from each participating Trust’s R&D office

• All data anonymised: no identifying place, staff or patient names used
Patient demographics

- 4772 valid responses received
- Patient demographics: 59.8% female; 79.7% over 65 years (47.9% over 80 years)
- 70% of patients recorded one or more co-morbidities
- Common co-morbidities include:
  - Cardio-vascular conditions (882; 18.5%)
  - Vascular disease (835; 17.5%)
  - Diabetes (738; 15.5%)
- Most patients treated by nurses (84%)
- Most patients treated in their own home or the community (77%)
Wound types

• Most common wounds:
  – leg/foot ulcers (1324; 31.2%)
  – pressure ulcers (767; 18.1%)

• About 50% of all wounds are leg wounds
  – Many patients with venous leg ulcers also presented with vascular / cardiovascular conditions
  – May indicate misdiagnosis of ulcers of mixed aetiology

• Surgical wounds and traumatic wounds also common
Wound characteristics

- Duration of about half of all wounds was under 6 months
- 4.7% of wounds were of over 5 years duration
- Most wounds (55.4%) status improving
- Mean wound dimensions: 3.5 cm x 2.4 cm
  - Wounds up to 60 cm in length recorded
- 45.7% of wounds granulating
- 51.6% of wounds moist exudate
Wound infection indicators

- No indication of infection in 56.9% of wounds
- 310 patients (6.5%) had 3 or more infection indicators
- Delayed healing observed in 13.4% of wounds (most common indication)
- Lower frequencies of other indicators
Wound treatment

- Rates of swabbing (8.4%) and use of antibiotics (12.6%) low
  - Substantial variation across the 5 trusts
  - Swabbing more common in wounds showing no primary infection indicator
- Protecting granulation most common treatment objective in all trusts (2804; 58.8%)
  - Managing exudate and protection of surrounding skin also common objectives
Wound treatment

- Large variation between Trusts on use of Doppler/ABPI procedure: from 16.0% to 48.4%
  - Most patients receiving Doppler also receive compression therapy
- Most dressings changed on weekly or twice-weekly basis
- Over half of wound dressings (55.0%) changed as part of routine care change
Summary

• Data identifies a wide range of wound types requiring assessment / treatment, including many complex types

• Managers/TVNs need to clearly identify educational and skills needs of the workforce

• Decreasing workforce numbers likely to lead a need to ensure effective wound management by:
  – exploring feasibility of teaching patients and their families/carers to manage uncomplicated wounds when discharged to patients’ home environment
  – ensuring patients and families/carers understand how to promote skin integrity

Full analysis of the survey data appears in Wounds UK (November 2013 edition)