

Complex Wound Care

Provision of an NCN-wide complex wound assessment service on a referral basis to increase the number of wounds actively managed within the Primary Care setting



Background

- Provide a NCN wide complex wound assessment service on a referral basis
- Assess the **healing potential** of all wounds encountered
- Assess and **advise current dressing needs**, ensuring the most effective solution
- Provide ongoing **peer support** to locality practice nurses

Project aims

The aims of the proposal were to:

- **Increase** the numbers of complex wounds being actively managed within the primary care setting in the South Caerphilly NCN area
- **Improve access** to wound management for patients and practices within Caerphilly South NCN
- Deliver NCN-wide complex wound assessment service on a **referral basis** in Caerphilly South NCN
- Up-skill Practice Nurses in wound management to **reduce pressure** on wound clinics 'in house', or suggesting treatment whilst patient is on waiting list
- **Reduction** in secondary care appointments
- Provide ongoing **peer support** to locality practice nurses in Caerphilly South NCN

Project outcomes

- **29** patients were referred into the service from practices in Caerphilly South NCN, by January 2016
- **1** referral was considered inappropriate
- **6** patients were referred to Secondary Care
- **6** patients receiving ongoing care with treatment plans in place
- **13** wounds were healed

What we did...

- **Clinics held** on Tuesday afternoons at Nantgarw Road Medical Centre in Caerphilly South NCN
- **Service led** by a Specialist Nurse, who recently returned from secondment to the Welsh Wound Innovation Centre
- The Specialist Nurse provides the referring practice with **details of the assessment** and a **suggested follow up/ treatment plan**

Clinics were set up for:

- **Management advice** of wounds that potentially could be referred to wound clinic.
- Advice on the ongoing management of patients who are on the **wound clinic waiting list** where the wound is deteriorating
- **Telephone advice** to practices in Caerphilly South NCN
- **Meetings with Practice Nurses** from other practices in Caerphilly South NCN to support their needs/ caseloads in wound care.

Evaluation

- The service was generally **well received and appreciated** within Caerphilly South NCN.
- The service is developing, and a service which is **accessible in the primary care setting**
- The **healing rates** of the patients seen have been good
- Work will continue to provide **improvement of communication and understanding** of the service by practices going forward, to enable the service to operate at optimum effectiveness.



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