

The National Wound Care Strategy Programme: a progress report



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The purpose of the National Wound Care Strategy Programme (NWCSP) is to improve care relating to pressure ulcers, lower limb ulcers, and surgical wounds. Key partners are working together to establish the underlying clinical and economic case for change, identify the desired improvements in patient care and describe the necessary changes and interventions required to deliver these improvements.

The NWCSP is underpinned by the principle that wound care should not be viewed as a separate clinical issue but be integrated into the care of underlying comorbidities that may cause or contribute to wounding. It is a long-term commitment to improving wound care and we feel encouraged that the NWCSP was noted in the recent NHS 10 Year Plan. Success depends on addressing the interdependencies between the different professional groups and services involved and improving patient care.

MAKING STEADY PROGRESS

The NWCSP has seven workstreams consisting of three clinical workstreams (Pressure Ulcer, Lower Limb and Surgical Wounds) supported by four enabler workstreams (Research Evidence, Supply and Distribution, Data and Information and Education and Workforce). Each workstream has been deliberately kept small in order to be more agile but we have recruited around 80 leading clinicians, researchers, educationalists and policy makers to these workstreams along with representation from industry. Most contribute on top of their 'day job' and their energy and commitment is remarkable.

The NWCSP workstreams will share information and receive feedback on their draft recommendations through the three Stakeholder Forums (Health and Care Professionals Forum, Patient and Carers Forum and Supplier Forum). These Forums are still actively recruiting stakeholders; with no limit to the numbers we are willing to register. Our first consultations will concern existing education provision and a draft 'road map' for lower limb service provision.

The Surgical Wounds workstream is focussing on the challenge of surgical wounds healing by secondary intention (whether intentional or due to dehiscence) and linking with the GIRFT programme (<https://gettingitrightfirsttime.co.uk/>) which is already undertaking work into surgical site infection. The Pressure Ulcer workstream is bringing together the work of the Stop the Pressure programme (<http://nhs.stopthepressure.co.uk/>) and (React to Red initiative <http://www.reactoredskin.co.uk/>). The Lower Limb workstream is developing a framework for lower limb care that will form the basis for recommendations regarding clinical care, education, data collection and service provision.

The Supply and Distribution Workstream are aligning wound care product categories and confirming current wound product spend and volume. The aim is to develop an improved supply and distribution model. The Data and Information workstream has been identifying all the different existing data sets that measure wound care activity and outcomes and is now working with the clinical workstreams to select those likely to be most useful and least burdensome for those tasked with data collection. Our evidence-scoping work is limited by our scarce resources so the Research Evidence workstream has focussed on identifying relevant Cochrane reviews and is now seeking relevant national clinical guidelines and NIHR funded primary research studies. The Education and Workforce workstream are currently developing the draft competency work that was undertaken as part of NHS England's Leading Change, Adding Value (www.england.nhs.uk/leadingchange/about/) wound care project to be applicable to professions other than nursing. This will form the basis for identifying the different education and information needs for different clinicians and carers as well as patients.

To increase the visibility of the NWCSP, we have developed a web page <http://bit.ly/NWCSP> to help us share information and send out newsletters to stakeholders registered with the Forums. So please get involved — we would like to work with you. **WUK**

Box 1. The stakeholder forum: make sure your voice is heard

If you haven't already signed up to the Stakeholder Forum, please do: <http://bit.ly/2RB72yL>. We are particularly keen to recruit patients and carers, so please share this link with anyone you think might be interested.