

National Wound Care Strategy Programme: the education work stream update



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The Education Work stream was one of the latter to be formed as part of the National Wound Care Strategy Programme (NWCSP). We have representation from academics, senior nurses, podiatrists, tissue viability specialists, Queen's nurses and educationalists. Our aim is to support the Clinical Work Streams by ensuring a suite of high-quality educational resources are available to support wound care-related knowledge and skill development for people working at all levels across the health and social care service.

One of our first objectives was to scope the existing free-to-access e-learning resources available. E-learning for Healthcare is a platform hosting hundreds of free-to-access e-learning modules, which currently has over a million users. Whilst historically it has been aimed at those within the clinical services, access to these resources is for anyone working within health and social care. We identified eleven modules relating to wound care and these are being reviewed by the clinical work streams against current best practice guidelines and for use by a multi-professional audience.

THE STAKEHOLDER FORUMS

A survey was sent to the three stakeholder forums for feedback. We asked:

- ▶▶ The Health and Care Professionals Forum about how they currently receive wound care training and how they would like to be trained
- ▶▶ The Patient and Carer Forum about their current involvement in managing wounds and about their desire to be an active part of wound care
- ▶▶ The Supplier Forum details about their free-to-access resources.

The results of the Health and Care Professionals forum showed that more than 80% of the forum receive face-to-face development sessions on wound care from the Tissue Viability teams within their organisation, whilst only 6% receive development via e-learning. However, when asked how they would prefer to receive training and development in this area, more than 70% said via

e-learning. The Education group are using this feedback to support the development of further online resources for a multi-professional audience.

COMPUTER-BASED LEARNING

E-learning doesn't always have a positive reputation, with some people associating it with mandatory training sessions and sitting for hours on end staring at a computer screen. New and innovative technology is being developed to help make e-learning more interactive and fun to use. Gamification technology, for example, draws on the same technology used for gaming platforms and console games, as well as virtual reality technology to help create and simulate a real-life clinical environment. We will try to harness both of these technologies in the development of future resources.

We also know that time for professional development and learning is often limited and, therefore, developing modules and resources that take hours to complete are not ideal. We will be focusing on "bite-sized" resources, which allow people to quickly access and complete a resource, which we hope will aid retention of information and overall enjoyment of undertaking the learning activity.

A NATIONAL CAPABILITY DOCUMENT

Another objective is to develop a national multi-professional capability document for wound care. Feedback from the Health and Care Professionals Forum showed that wound care is often considered a role of the nurse. We believe that everyone from support worker to consultant has a role to play in preventing and managing wounds and thus there is a need to develop knowledge and skill at all levels. We have found many different capability and competency documents that are aimed at a single profession. We hope that by developing a single multi-professional document that draws on these different documents, we will support knowledge and skills development across the entire workforce.

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