

Leg Club update

One of the most interesting dynamics within the Lindsay Leg Club® model is the relationship between the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation and the individual Leg Clubs. At a basic level, the Foundation operates a general website (www.legclub.org) to share news and best practice among Leg Clubs and to promote the Leg Club model to the public. The Leg Clubs themselves co-ordinate activities and cooperate within a Leg Club Forum which is independent to the Foundation. Undoubtedly, the major contribution of the Foundation to the individual Leg Clubs lies in its efforts to ensure a consistent level of service quality across all Leg Clubs through four key processes.

Setting up a Leg Club.

The Foundation provides guidance and advice upon the initial set up of new Leg Clubs, with this information detailed in the Leg Club position document.

Ongoing support and guidance.

At any time a Leg Club can approach the Foundation for support upon issues such as infection prevention in a non-NHS facility and resolving disputes between the Leg Club and the associated Primary Care Organisation.

Clinical audit

Every quarter the Foundation audits the records of members seen in each Leg Club to highlight gaps in the data gathered within the Leg Clubs that can be used to demonstrate the quality of care provided and the outcomes achieved.

Education

When the Leg Club model was first established the small number of Leg Clubs made it relatively easy for the Foundation to directly work with the nursing staff within each Leg Club to provide educational content regarding the management of lower limb problems. Over the years, as the number of Leg Clubs increased (there are now 26 Lindsay Leg Clubs open across the

UK), the challenge of providing direct educational support to all Leg Clubs has increased, given that the Foundation only had a single person who was tasked to visit the Leg Clubs and deliver educational sessions. As awareness of this challenge grew, a separate project was underway between the Foundation and the Leg Club Industry Partners.

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This aimed to develop an educational programme for Leg Club staff with the content a blend of presentations already prepared by each Leg Club Industry Partner, along with specific contributions from clinicians working in lower leg care. All company presentations were reviewed, all logos and commercial messages removed with the resulting slides brought into a common style and theme. This work produced a series of eight modules covering:

- ▶▶ The skin: understanding its structure and functions
- ▶▶ The wound healing process
- ▶▶ Causes of leg ulcers.
- ▶▶ Leg ulcer assessment
- ▶▶ Doppler — understanding ankle, brachial pressure index (ABPI)
- ▶▶ Local skin and wound management
- ▶▶ Dressings
- ▶▶ Getting compression right.

Creating these modules required large inputs of time and commitment from the Leg Club Industry Partners and, in particular, the Foundation. Thanks to Julie Carr, Elaine Gibson and Claire Stephens for their work to create the educational

programme. Delivery of the educational programme to individual Leg Clubs was considered parallel to the development of the educational programme.

Trudie Young, a Trustee of the Foundation, has considerable experience in the creation and delivery of online educational resources and, with Trudie at the helm, the Foundation worked to turn the educational programme (some 300 plus slides) into an online resource. In the spring of this year, the Foundation launched its online educational resource, the Leg Club Learning Zone (www.learningzone.legclub.org), to ensure that all Leg Club nursing staff have the opportunity to share the educational programme, work through and complete the self-tests, and, at the end of each module and in conjunction with the Leg Club clinical competencies booklet, maintain their competence in all aspects of lower limb care.

The new Leg Club Learning Zone provides a platform through which new information can be cascaded to all Leg Clubs, and the educational content will be regularly reviewed and updated with new topics added when required. The Lindsay Leg Club Foundation and the Leg Club Industry Partners have agreed that the content of the Leg Club Learning Zone should also be accessible to clinicians and others who are not involved with the current Leg Clubs. To find out how to access the Learning Zone and the costs associated with entry to specific modules or to the entire educational package, please contact the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation at www.legclub.org.

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