

An update from Woundcare4Heroes

Woundcare4Heroes (WC4H) strives to provide lifelong national complex wound management support for injured veterans and to offer our NHS support and educational programmes in the field of ballistic injury. The charity was launched on 14 June 2012 with a mission to support complex wound care transition from Ministry of Defence (MoD) care into the NHS. As our first anniversary rapidly approaches WC4H continues to build momentum with additional clinical service extensions, educational programmes, and events.

OPERATIONAL SERVICE DELIVERY

The first operational services were launched in January 2013 offering complex wound management and educational support through Cardiff and Birmingham. It is projected that two additional clinical centres in Liverpool and Portsmouth will soon be active. WC4H are working closely with the MoD to develop a care pathway to facilitate discharge liaison into the NHS and a longer-term goal to initiate complex wound management support services across ten national rehabilitation centres. All centres will share and communicate via a secure telemedicine database and facilitate data collection.

WC4H is working as a strategic partner with two National Institute of Health Research Healthcare Technology Co-operative (HTC) projects relating to trauma and complex wound dressings. We are working with project leads to assist in product development and research opportunities. The Trauma HTC was launched at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham in April 2013. WC4H aims to bring the voices of those wounded in combat to the Trauma HTC to improve outcomes and long-term wellbeing.

OPERATION RADAR

WC4H are presently in discussions with other veteran's charities, such as The Royal British Legion and Poppy Fields, to scope future working partnerships.

EDUCATION

WC4H delivered a comprehensive wound care programme relating to complex wound management

and burns at the 14th International Trauma Conference in April 2013. The day was a huge success and well attended by both military and civilian wound care practitioners alike. WC4H plans to be involved in the 15th International Trauma Conference in 2014.

The first WC4H annual conference is to be held at Worcester Race Course on 12 October 2013. The programme for this educational study day will address trauma, burns, and complex wound management issues, and will be followed by a Red Devils parachute display and a fund raising gala dinner.

WC4H are also preparing to working closely with MoD personnel to develop an academic spine to underpin a university-accredited ballistic injury course.

FUND RAISING INITIATIVES

Fund raising remains a key focus for WC4H and we are being adopted by a growing number of organisations as their nominated charity of the year. A well-attended trauma and wound care study day was held in Cardiff on 3 May, followed by an impressive 240-mile charity cycle ride from Cardiff to Liverpool. This event was a huge success and raised approximately £6000 for WC4H. Special thanks go to Simon Barrett (tissue viability nurse, Humber NHS) for organising this fantastic study day and cycling with the team to raise funds. Special thanks also go to Professor David Leaper, Activa Healthcare, Coloplast, and H&R Healthcare for chairing and funding the educational event. Plans for next year's charity cycle ride – London to Hull in 48 hours – and educational event are already underway.

The Bands at the Broom event – which attracted thousands of music lovers in May – is donating proceeds to WC4H and Air Ambulance.

Like most charitable organisations, WC4H is solely reliant on fund raising to support its activities. We are always happy to hear from anyone who wishes to support or organise a fund raising event. Please visit our website for updates (www.woundcare4heroes.org.uk).

WC4H would like to thank everyone who has supported us to date.

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